General Discussion of the Budget.

Mr. C. J. Mathew.—Mr. President, I do not wish to reiterate the grounds covered by my Hon'ble predecessors. The defects pointed out by them are existing, and the curative methods suggested ought to be welcomed by the Government. The same cry, that I heard yesterday, was raised in this very floor by one and all of the non-official Members of the Cochin Legislative Council. If the Government had but heeded to the advice, that the representatives of the people had given in the best interests of the country, the administration of the State would have been different to-day. Sir, Mr. T. S. Narayana Ayyar began his administration under very good auspices. He had the added advantage of a Legislative Council composed of the pick of the people, who, thoroughly conscious of their duty to the people, earnestly and with the best of intentions drew the attention of the Government to their weaknesses, and pointed out such remedial measures as seemed appropriate to them.

Several burning questions of the State, such as the mal-administration of the Forest Department and the consequent loss in the Tramway, the failure of the Agricultural Department, the slow and stagnant administration of the Panchayats, the inadequate representation in State services, absence of irrigational facilities, the utter lack of roads all over the State, the step-motherly treatment towards commerce and industry, negation of equality of citizenship to several classes of His Highness' subjects,—these and several other matters were vigorously ventilated in this very hall. An efficient administration, existing for the welfare of the people, would have utilised the opportunities thus afforded by the Council, and got matters right at the earliest hour. But, after three years' labour of the flower of Cochin, after expending several thousands over the costly Legislative Council, where are we now? Sir, we are where we were, where we started, and I would lay the blame and the whole blame for having made no progress in any Department at the door of the general administration. It has failed completely to use the knowledge that was made available to it. In short, it is a party to all the mal-administration in the several Departments. Instead of stamping out corruption, it is allowing it to grow. It is the corrective agency, and if that agency does not act in spite of all promptings, how can the Departments improve? Sir, if you want the governmental machinery to work properly, if we want Departmental working to improve, the first thing to do is to over-haul the central machinery of the general administration.

I am optimistic by nature and especially so where administrations are concerned. However long the general administra-

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tion may delay carrying into effect the salutory recommendations of the people, a day shall certainly come when such recommendations are acted upon. But for that hope, I would have sat down, and not cared to repeat all that has been said by the Members of the last Legislative Council.

Looking to the budget in the receipt side, I am struck by the fall in Revenue by nearly Rs. 35,000 during the current year in the Forest Department. The administration of this Department has been going from bad to worse during the last several years. This matter has been fully exposed with facts and figures in the last Legislative Council. Yet, during these years, the Forest administration had made itself responsible for acts, which no Government can view with equanimity. What is one to think of sales of teak for less than the cost price! The contracts the Government had entered into with Messrs. Numberumal Chetty and Sons for the supply of teak and teak toplings have, I believe, caused the Government at least a loss of half a lakh of rupees. Details regarding this I reserve for cuts on 'Forest'. Sale prices were fixed without any regard to the actual cost incurred, and the system of private negotiation was ruling freely, when the Conservator himself was aware that the result of public auctions in lots was extremely successful. These irregularities could well be proved, if only the Government would kindly place the local audit report on the Council Table.

This system, therefore, of selling the timber for any price below the working charge of timber ought to be discontinued all at once. The trees in the forest are just like gold and silver bullion in stalk, which could be converted into coin at any time. Timber is money in a different shape, and it ought to be converted into money, when the highest value for it can be had. I would, therefore, strongly advocate the introduction into our State of the system now prevailing in Travancore with regard to the sale of timber there, namely, to collect the timber in the State Depots and sell them in public auction on particular fixed dates during the course of every month. So also the Government undertakings in plantations have been excessively costly, and stand no comparison with the corresponding expenses in Travancore.

I mark with appreciation the resolve taken by the Government to breed the so-called "white-elephant" for some time more. It has become the fashion to father upon the Tramway all the inequities of the Forest Department. Critics of the Tramway lose sight of the cardinal fact that the Tramway is only a handmaid of the Forests. It has served the Forest efficiently and well all these years, and for its yeoman service it has come in for much blame, while the real culprit, the Forests, seems to have escaped. The question is whether the Tramway is useful

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to the Government to the extent of bringing any profit by itself, that is to say, whether the annual outlay on the Tramway for its up-keep and maintenance be covered by the proceeds from the sale of timber transported by it during the course of the year at reasonable prices. It is sad, however, that little or no light is thrown on this simple issue all these years. It is found from the report of the Special Finance Committee that the Conservator had not committed himself to a definite line of action in the working of the forests tapped by the Tramway. On the other hand, the Tramway Engineer was applying to the Government for the lease of the forests tapped by the Tram line. Is it not a direct or indirect hint, Sir, that Tramway would be a profitable concern in the hands of private individuals as distinguished from the Government? I am of opinion that a proper investigation must be conducted by an expert hand and see where the mystery actually lies. With the maturing of the Cochin Harbour Scheme, and when the Britishers start tapping the Mount Stuart Forest, lying adjacent to the Parambikulam Forests, I am sure the prospects of our Tramway will be very much brightened, and our 'white-elephant' be converted into a normal working being.

Our Public Works Department is well kept, and maintained, and in the race for expenditure it always tops the list; but, from the stand-point of the benefit directly accruing to the people, very little attention is paid. I believe the Public Works Department is meant for public good, but I can find no good in a Department, which has consistently refused to undertake works which are urgently needed for the use and benefit of the people at large. To quote but one instance, I may cite the immense amount of suffering nearly 15,000 of people of the Pariyaram, Elingipara and Kodasseri villages in the Mukundapuram Taluk is subject to for want of a road. For nearly the last 25 years, these poor villagers have been agitating for a road to Chalakkudi through the Pallipurath *Padam*, and their cry of agony still remains unheeded. And for what reason were they given the go-bye? In spite of repeated hopes held out to them, the budget of every year brought home to them the same old message "no funds." This is like a Malabar Marumakkathayam family, where the *Karanavan* hoards up all treasure and never cares to meet the legitimate demands of the *Anantaravans* of the family. No real rural reconstruction is possible without opening out proper means of communications all over the State. We want more roads, Sir, and not buildings. If I am permitted, I may suggest that the amount of Rs.10,000, set apart for the construction of a tiffin shed attached

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to the local Girls' School, may be utilised for the benefit o these people at once, and the building in question be conveniently postponed for the year 1105. In this connection, I beg leave to record the feelings of gratitude of the people of Meloor for the allotment made in the budget for the construction of a road from Muringoor to Meloor, a place which is now cut out from all parts of the world, and where neither cart nor car would go at present.

Turning now to Collegiate Education, I am not one of those, who consider a First Grade College for the State a luxury. I am a firm believer in the necessity of maintaining an efficient, well-established, well-equipped and well-conducted institution for the University Education. Sir, the association of the venerable name of His Highness the Maharaja with this institution, I take it, should have been a proof against all sorts of malpractices. But, I feel as a Member of this Council it is incumbent on me to point out some of the irregularities in the management of this institution at present. As an old boy of the College, I am in a position to realise by contrast a great change for the worse in the general atmosphere and management of the institution. Instead of being a cultural centre, I am afraid the College at present is a breeding ground of discontentment and distress. I attribute this to the want of proper encouragement and recognition of ability and earnestness. Promotions, confirmations and appointments among the staff of the College are now made more on personal basis. The half-hearted and almost step-motherly attention bestowed on the Ezhuva and Mohammadan Hostels, the vagaries in the admission of students into the science and other groups, the endless manoeuvring to evade answering interpellations in Councils, are but a few of the manifold irregularities reflecting discredit on the present administration of the Maharaja's College, Ernakulam.

Another problem, which the Government will have to face, is the pay and the prospects of the Vernacular school teachers. These teachers are paid hardly better than the peons of certain offices. They are all men of moderate education and intelligence, and probably most of them are married, and have a family to maintain. How long are the Government going to allow these people to live with a family upon Rs. 14 or so per mensem? These teachers have long been agitating for the betterment of their salaries and prospects, and it is like a cry that is lost in the wilderness.

Thanks to the Chief Medical and Sanitary Officer, he has drawn up a scheme to improve and to enlarge the Chalakkudi

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Hospital. The constructing of new wards in a more elevated place to accommodate the runaways from among the in-patients of the Chalakkudi Hospital during the times of the flood is a long-felt need indeed. The forest being so near, the number of patients, that flock to this hospital from day to day, is a sight to see. This hospital, therefore, requires a thorough overhauling and improvement. Sir, of the proposed rural dispensaries to be opened during next year, shall I pray that one may be located either at Kallattingara or Aloor, for the distance from these villages to the nearest hospital is too much for an urgent case to be attended to in time? The rural sanitation, Sir, is at present sadly neglected, and I am of opinion that we should have a separate Health Officer in charge of the Sanitary Department alone. I understand we have among our Assistant Surgeons one who has undergone a course of training in public health in the foreign Universities. The quantity of drugs supplied at present to our various hospitals and dispensaries are far from being satisfactory and they hardly meet the growing demands of the poor sick population of our State. I certainly do not grudge the enlarging of the General Hospital at Ernakulam. On the other hand, I would suggest a "nose and throat" Department and also a dental Department be introduced at an earliest date. The Trichur Civil Hospital, however, requires to be run on more vigorous lines, and the appointment of an Additional Civil Surgeon for the place will not be a luxury.

Sir, turning to the industries of the State, we find it is in a state of chaos. We shall not be satisfied with a few Government Trades Schools existing here and there. The Potteries is a scheme, on which our Government expended lavishly, and which was expected to turn out a big bulk of the State Revenue. That huge pile of buildings now proclaims forth a confession of weakness on the part of the Cochin Government. Foreign experts one after another were tried with no success. May I suggest that a student from the State with brilliant academical qualifications and character be sent to Japan or Europe for training in Potteries? Sir, we have enough money in store, over Rs. 60,00,000, and why don't make the Potteries a thoroughgoing Industrial Institution? If, however, the Government have no idea to work the Potteries to success, as was originally intended, it is high time the scheme is totally given up, and the buildings utilised for other purposes than turning out bricks. I would suggest the transfer of the Chalakkudi hospital to these buildings, and it will accommodate any amount of patients and protect them against all attacks of the flood.

Sir, we have a Protector of the Depressed Classes and also a Department newly opened under the head "the Uplift of

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Depressed Classes''. These moves do not, in my opinion, go a great way to remove the existing social disabilities or to improve the economical conditions of the depressed classes. I would advocate the appointment of a full-time officer to look after their interests. In this connection, I welcome with pleasure Mr. Chanchan into our midst, and do assure him, on behalf of all the Members of this House, that he shall have our cordial support in his attempts to uplift his community.

Sir, one more word, and I am done. In whatever light you may take the cry for representation in service, take it as an economic cry. The matter is one agitating the minds of lakhs of His Highness' subjects. I shall not go into figures. I may only point out that, in spite of solemn promises, matters now stand where they stood long ago.

Sir, I beg leave to place on record the feeling of joy, which the people of my constituency expressed, on your appointment as the acting Diwan. May I pray that you may be pleased to carry to His Highness the news that it is with deep sense of loyalty that the royal message is received by the people of my constituency?

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar.—Sir, I was in the unhappy position of not being able to congratulate the Finance Member in the last three years, and I am also in the same predicament this year, because of the one fact that it has always been, and it is, a surplus budget. My idea of finance is that the Government has no business to hoard money. If they have more money, they must spend it on more remunerative and reproductive works, and if they do not want so much money, they need not collect so much money. Then coming to the other aspects.

Many of the important points have been dealt with by my Hon'ble colleagues, and I do not propose to take up much of the time of the House by repeating them again. I shall confine myself only to one or two points.

The budget of 1104, whatever else it is, is not as usual a poor man's budget. To a superficial observer, it would appear that we are in a very prosperous condition. For have we not a Railway? Have we not motor cars? Have we not Municipalities and Municipal taxes? Have we not some good streets, good buildings and big shops? And above all, have we not liquor shops, where we can drink and make merry, and in spite of all these have we not surpluses every year? But alas, Sir, little does he know the real condition of the majority of us, who are steeped in abject poverty, and if their voice is not heard, it is because that they are so weak that they could not make it audible.

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The extent of the poverty can be gauged from our average income. My friend, the Hon'ble Member for Jenmies, says that our average national income is only Rs. 36. I also think that it is more or less correct. So the average daily income comes to one anna seven pies per soul, and the appalling poverty of the masses can be realised when we know that this takes in the hundreds and thousands spent by the rich every year.

It is thus clear that a large proportion of our population have no means to get one full meal a day. And what have we done to ameliorate their condition so far, and what do we propose to do in the coming year?

There is no denying the fact that they form the backbone of the country, and no State has a right to call itself progressive, prosperous or enlightened, so long as it leaves the masses in this deplorable condition.

It is said that three-fourths of our population are dependant on agriculture. It is also an undeniable fact that the agriculturists have no work for more than six months in the year. They spend the rest of the time in idleness. I submit that it is the duty of the Government to improve their condition, and I would suggest two ways, by which they can attain this object. The first is the organisation of purely Agricultural, distinguished from Credit Co-operative Societies in their midst. No amount of lip sympathy will do. It must carry on an intensive propaganda among them. Their chronic indebtedness is proverbial. I can speak with authority about the plight of the poor agriculturists in my constituency. You go to an average agriculturist in any of the villages to-day, and ask him how he managed to cultivate his lands this year. I am sure that 75 per cent of them will tell you that either a rice mill owner or a money lender has advanced some money to him at 15 per cent interest, with which he purchased two bullocks or buffaloes and some seeds, and if you are a little more inquisitive about the details, you can learn that the anticipated harvest will not be sufficient to pay the principal and interest due to the mill owner or money lender, not to speak of the payment to his Jenmy.

The other remedy that I suggest is the organisation of some cottage industry, which will give them some work during the period of their enforced idleness, and will substantially add to their income from agriculture. What that industry is can be determined after an investigation of the local conditions. But as a universal cottage industry I can think of no other than hand-spinning. Its special advantages are of such a nature that none other can successfully compete with it as a universal one. I do not propose to enter into a detailed discussion of it here as

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I am sure that most of the thinking public have come to realise its importance. I need point out only one fact. We are now importing cloth worth, at the rate of Rs. 5 per head, about 50 lakhs of rupees a year. If we tap this industry, universalise it and utilise the national energy that is now wasted, we can easily become self-supporting in the matter of cloth, and easily without any effort increase our national income by 50 lakhs a year. I suggested this in the last Council, but it fell on deaf ears. The Mysore Government tried it in a few villages. They found it successful and are now organising it on a larger scale. The experiment will not cost the Government an outlay in lakhs, but only in thousands. Will it be too much if I ask the Government to utilise a small fraction of their surplus for organising this life-giving industry?

Another point which I wish to emphasise in this connection is the alarming growth of our Excise revenue with its inevitable result in the increase in the consumption of liquor. It is also a matter which vitally affects the poor, and is the main cause of the increasing poverty and indebtedness of the masses. There is hardly a labourer who does not spend a substantial portion of his income on this accursed drink. It is high time that the Government should think of some means to redeem them from this pestilential taverns and liquor dens. I would request the Government as an irreducible minimum to restrict the places of sale and thus discourage intoxication and diminish the great moral and social evils that flow from it.

I feel it also my duty, my painful duty, to bring to the notice of the Government that there is much to be desired in point of efficiency and integrity in the service to-day. I fully endorse all that has been said by the Hon'ble Member for Trippunittura about the corruption that is getting rampant in the services. I said two years ago in the very floor of this House that it is gradually creeping into the services. Not only that nothing was done to check its wild growth, but, to our humiliation, it was even acknowledged by the Government during the last budget debate that it is not possible to control the vagaries of their own servants. This is a very sad state of affairs, and the sooner it is ended, the better for both the people and the Government. I do not wish to expatiate upon this point any further. Suffice it to say that it is increasingly felt day by day that without tips it is not possible to get on. I warn the Government that it is high time for them to use their iron hand to put them down.

Before I conclude, permit me, Sir, to draw the attention of

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the Government once again to the long-felt grievances of the third class passengers about accommodation, lighting and lavatory arrangements and other sanitary conditions in the Cochin Railway. They were brought to its notice during the last budget debate; the Government promised to move the Railway authorities in the matter. I sent a question to ascertain whether anything has been done in the matter. It was rejected under section 11. The token motion which I sent for the same purpose met with the same fate. All the same, Sir, the grievances continue, and they are real and felt by the public very keenly every day, nay, every minute that they are in the train. If the Government does not take up this matter seriously, the only way left to us is to agitate it in the press. Will it be too much if we, the non-official Members of this House, expect the co-operation of the Government in getting these long-felt and hard grievances removed?

Mr. A. L. Antony.—Sir, once more the Finance Member has presented to this House his usual accounts, framed under the close-clinging, antiquated order of things without giving place to the new. As the Hon'ble Member for Pailivirutti has observed, the Government always seem to cut the cloth according to the coat, but I may add that the coat that is cut is too short to be used by the State subjects. When there is more of cloth, and when the body is stouter, why not cut a bigger coat so as to fit in properly?

From the previous speeches of my colleagues here, it has brought home to the Government that ryots of the State, who form a great percentage of our population, and who contribute more towards the revenue, are really suffering, and their conditions are too miserable. Not to cite of many instances, I may refer to the large irrigational schemes of diverting the water of the Karuvannur river in the Mukundapuram Taluk. How many acres of land are being devastated by the overflow of water in that river during the monsoon times, how many people are suffering owing to that calamity, which happens not occasionally, but recurs year after year, how many times the people of these regions have requisitioned the Gevernment for succour and relief—all these without mentioning are well known to the Government. When the Government turn a deaf ear to their cry, when they show a cruel heart to the prayers of its subjects, and when there is a surplus amount in the Treasury, I am constrained to say that it is highly culpable to swell the rich Treasury still further.

When the people are wanting in such like unavoidable and pressing necessities, when they repeatedly and continuously cry

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aloud for relief, why should the Government take an attitude of a flint-hearted guardian, who puts the children to hunger so as to replenish his purse? Why should the present generation be put to inconvenience, discomfort and suffering, bequeathing a decent portion of the amount to the generations to come? The tax-payer of to-day requires not that he should be made to starve and the future generations happy, but he wants and also devoutly wish that charity should begin at home. By a look at the budget of the last 3 or 4 years, it can be seen that the items of our State revenue are more or less certainly increasing, so much so that unforeseen expenses of an ordinary nature would indeed be few, capital expenditure on large schemes will have to be met by debenture loans as was done at the time of the Railway scheme; in short, the revenue raised from the present generation should not ordinarily be kept back for use in the future. There is a difference between a State budget and the home budget—it is neither statecraft nor expediency to play the Silas Marner in regard to the State funds.

Everything in nature is liable to be changed, but our Government seem to be an exception to the rule. A cursory glance at the Proceedings of this Council for the last three years reveals to every one of us that the representatives of the people vehemently and eloquently voiced forth for a change. Reforms in several directions were suggested by them (all honour to them!) both in their budget discussions and by resolutions casting aside matters on which there was difference of opinions, which are few. The separation of the Panchayat from Agriculture, a better, more practical and effective working of the Agricultural Department, a more prudent and remunerative exploitation of the forests, affording irrigational facilities throughout the State, a wider distribution of loaves and fishes of offices, and above all a more efficient control of the administration of the several Departments, matters on which the non-official Members were agreed. Yet none of them is acted upon. Nevertheless, we too continue and repeat the same cry, din into the ears of the Government, move its heart and mind, if it has any, with a fair hope that the people would realise their ambition as early as possible.

I need not repeat here what is said by my friends. There are very few Departments which are above criticism, perhaps the Revenue and the Judiciary can be counted as exceptions. Even there, there are black spots. It has been suggested ere now that if one man alone (*i. e.*, the Diwan) cannot effectively check the several Departments owing to want of time or multiplicity of Departments, an Executive Council is a need which no longer can be delayed.

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As to the franchise given to the subjects in sending their representatives to the Council I might say a few words. Our sister State, Travancore, has extended it to a payer of 5 Rs. tax; whilst here it remains still to be a payer of 10 Rs. tax. According to this, it is only 2 % of the whole population of our State include in the list, which really seems to be quite unsatisfactory. Why not the subjects be given a better franchise, even better than the sister State by making it 2½ Rs.?

One word about the general appointments in the service. This is a matter which is jarring to many ears; it is easily condemned as smacking communalism. But it has to be remembered that one cannot remain himself communalistic and have others non-communalistic. A fair distribution of offices among all classes of the subjects of His Highness is a desideratum devoutly wished. By a look at *the Civil List* we can see such an educated community as Christians, leaving the superannuated officers, some two or three, who are to retire within 3 or 4 years, there are only less than a dozen men drawing over Rs. 100 and none drawing above Rs. 300. That the Christian community would not supply the necessary men to fill the offices is something disproved by facts. So also is the state of non-caste-Hindus and Muhammadans, and I on their behalf too plead that the Government would make a decisive effort to give them a fair representation in the service.

One word more and I close. To you, Sir, my sincere felicitations are due for your deserved elevation to the Diwanship of this State. It is the fruition of your hard, untiring and conscientious labour of over a quarter of a century, and I am fully confident that you will fill the office with success. I believe your natural, unbiassed character, as hitherto experienced by us, would give the fullest satisfaction not only to the Government but to all the people of His Highness, irrespective of caste, colour or creed. While I have nothing but praise for the choice that His Highness the Maharaja has made, I cannot refrain from remarking that by this appointment, the legitimate claims of some others have been overlooked, and, in this connection, it reminds me of a lecture deliverd by a great man some 8 years ago in the College hall close by, wherein he exhorted the Brahmins to leave all mundane things for spiritual exercise, the Christians, to take to commerce and industry, and the other caste-Hindus to follow their legitimate avocation of military service and administration.

Mrs. G. Pavitran.—Sir, allow me at the very outset to congratulate our enlightened Government for giving the women of this State an opportunity to voice their opinions in this

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Council through a duly nominated representative. Before proceeding to make any general observations on the budget, I wish to say that I feel greatly honoured in having been chosen by the Government as the representative of the women of this State, who, I may say with pardonable pride, form the most educated women electorate in the whole of India.

To come to the budget itself, I may congratulate the Finance Member for the carefully prepared budget that he has placed before the House showing a surplus of Rs.95,700. I am fully aware that the revenues of the State have reached the limit of expansion and have ceased to be elastic. I am also equally aware that the increasing requirements of a progressive Government like ours can only be met by retrenchment in the expenditure. Hence it is that I congratulate the Finance Member on the policy of caution and safety first which characterises his budget. But I would like respectfully to call the attention of the Government to the fact that a surplus budget is not the only determining factor in the prosperity of a State. Enlightened and far-sighted statesmanship on the other hand requires that the revenues of the State are increased by tapping new and unexplored sources. If cuts are applied at all, they should never be applied to those Departments of the State which contribute to its development, such as Education, Local Self-government, Agriculture, etc. Wisdom dictates that this policy should especially be followed in a State like ours, which owes its premier place among the Native States of India to the high state of advancement which the education of its subject, both men and women, has reached. I would most respectfully call the attention of the Members on the Government side to the fact that this resource should be stretched to the limit to maintain the enviable place won for our State by the enlightened and progressive policy followed by our Government for the last decade or two rather than to produce a surplus budget. A surplus budget, I dare say, may comfort a cautious and self-complacent statesman but it would fail to meet the growing demands of a progressive people.

Proceeding now to the Department of Education, I would once again repeat that we have always to bear in mind that the premier place occupied by us is due entirely to the advancement in education, especially in female education. So the very first thing I wish to bring to the notice of this House is the suicidal policy contemplated in the report of the Special Finance Committee regarding the enhancement of fees for girls. The budget shows that while an expenditure of Rs. 8,40,867 is incurred

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for 'Boys' Education,' primary and secondary, only Rs. 2,41,178 is incurred for the education of girls. Though female education is more advanced here than in other parts of India, I do not think that its present state justifies a measure like this. I feel it is too late in the day to try to impress on the enlightened Members of this House that any amount of money spent for the education of our girls will only be a fruitful investment, which will pay us back in ample measure in the increased prosperity of the citizens in the years to come. I would also point out that Government should not spare any expenditure to reorganize the present system of education, which, if it is admitted to be defective for boys, is much more defective for girls as it is now imparted. While congratulating the Member for Education on the consistently progressive policy followed by him in the matter of female education, I would earnestly request him to spare no pains in maintaining that policy even at great cost. I do not propose to go into the details of the reforms necessary, but I would content myself with simply pointing out that the ultimate aim of their education should be to make them makers of happy homes. I do not of course presume to foresee how such changes would react on the finance of this State. I only wish to press the attention of this House that the sooner these reforms are taken in hand, the better for the State, and that we should never think of the cost in launching upon such useful schemes of reform. I do not think it will be out of place here to call the attention of this House to the desirability of throwing open to women Departments other than Education and Medicine in order to solve the growing problem of unemployment among them also. Most of the Members of this House may know that in Travancore and in British India this reform has already been taken up.

I pass on next to the Excise Department. I may be talking as an idealist, but I feel that I cannot refrain from pointing out that total prohibition ought to be the guiding policy of our Government in this Department. The revenue derived from this source has been truly characterised as unholy. And as such, wise statesmanship demands that it should be done away with as early as possible. If it has been possible for a country like America to go dry, I do not think it would be very difficult for us to put into effective practice this policy of total prohibition. As a first measure, I think it is highly necessary that the sale of liquors by women should at least be put a stop to, since this has a doubly demoralizing effect not only on the customers in liquor shops but also on the women themselves.

I would just say a word about Agriculture and Panchayats.

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Since both of these Development Departments require great attention, it would not be possible to do justice to either by grouping both of them under one Departmental Head. Some Hon'ble Members of this House at its very first session have even suggested that this Department should be ended, since its work has not been carried out properly. But I venture to say that it would be wise to mend rather than end such a useful Department. As for Panchayats, no cost should be spared to see that its work is carried on effectively, since the village has always been the ultimate unit of Government in India.

I think I shall be failing in my duty if I do not take this opportunity of pointing out that the question of giving a living wage to the low-paid servants of this State ought to engage our very earnest and serious attention. Poverty problem in India is staring us full in the face, and while other Governments are stirring themselves to find out a solution, we should not be found wanting in taking steps to remedy this evil. In my humble opinion, a beneficent Government ought to identify itself with the interests of the poorest, the lowliest and the lost, though it may mean an increase of expenditure at a time when we can ill afford it. I should think that our Government should see that a living wage should be given even to the lowest servant of the State. I would even go to the extent of saying that, if it is necessary, Government should not shrink from the duty of laying the axe at the high salaries and the high travelling allowances given at present to the officers at the top. I should not be understood to mean that I advocate a complete overhauling of the present scale of pay. What I suggest is that, by a wise retrenchment, the cost of the administration may be made less top-heavy.

I fear that the improvements which I venture to suggest in the various Departments would mean greater expenditure, which the limited resources of our State cannot meet; but, as Mr. C. Achyuta Menon has so wisely remarked in his budget speech in the very first session of our Council, this increase in expenditure is unavoidable, and can only be met by retrenchment or by fresh taxation or both. Though fresh taxation would be looked upon as an unpopular measure, we cannot but resort to it in the years to come in a small State like ours. I think that, if not now, at some future time Government will have seriously to take up the question of imposition of a tax on non-agricultural incomes. What I advocate is a system of capital levy to be gradually introduced in our State, as was attempted to be done by the Labour Government in England during its short term of office. Besides preventing the un-

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healthy accumulation of the lower strata of society, such a measure would contribute liberally to the public exchequer. As far as I can say, this is probably the only source from which our Government can expect to increase its revenue in the future.

I would like to end with the same note with which I began. Instead of resting content with a surplus budget, it is our duty to strain every nerve to see that our State maintains the high place that it has won among the Native States of India. In the speech in the Maharaja's College Hall on "The Future of Indian States", the Right Honourable V. S. Srinivasa Sastri remarked that, when the question of a Federated India is taken up by the Imperial Government, most of the Native States should be painted red in our map; but he was pleased to exempt from this category progressive States like Mysore, Travancore and Cochin. If anything entitles our State to be called progressive, it is undoubtedly the advanced state of education, especially of Female Education, among its citizens. And it is up to us to see that when the question of a Federated India is taken up, posterity shall not point the finger of scorn at us, saying that in the hour of need we were found wanting by sacrificing our ultimate interests to the immediate necessity of equalising income and expenditure.

President.—Non-official Members will finish their discussion before 2. p. m., so that the afternoon may be given to the officials.

Mr. K. Mohamed Seethi.—Mr. President, Sir, I feel sincerely happy in congratulating you on your being called upon to preside over the deliberations of this House, because it seems to me, from the remarkable tact, sympathy, penetration and, above all, imagination that you evinced as the Chairman of the Standing Finance Committee and the President of this House, that your regime is destined to be a most effective answer to those well-meaning critics, who have been constrained by experience to question the wisdon of selecting a son of the soil to occupy the Diwanship of Cochin.

I heartily associate myself with all that has been said on the floor of this House about the harmonious relations that ought to exist between the official and non-official blocks of this House. Trust begetteth trust, and if the official Members extend their hand of co-operation, the non-officials will not fail to take it. It is my heart-felt prayer that the spirit of comradeship, that should permeate this House, should not be sacrificed at the altar of red-tapism, pseudo-diplomacy, or irresponsible criticism.

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Coming to the budget that has been presented by the Finance Member, I may at once say what has been repeated *ad nauseam* that a surplus budget is no index to the prosperity of the people. A budget surplus is no matter for gratification, when it happens to be the outcome of stinting, stunting and starving the legitimate needs of the tax-payer. It becomes even alarming when it is tainted with the blood of the tax-payer. The Excise revenue is undoubtedly tainted money, because it represents the income of the State from a most disastrous vice of the people. Whatever might be said about the practicability of its immediate abolition, I am emphatically of opinion that the Government should lose no time in taking a bold and decisive step in emancipating society from the evil of drink. It is a sacred duty the State owes to the people, and there cannot be any justification for delay in the discharge of it. I would suggest to the Government the immediate appointment of a committee consisting of officials and non-officials to go into all the aspects of the question and the bold adoption of the considered recommendations of that committee. The problem deserves the earnest and immediate attention of the Government, and the mere expression of their sympathy with the temperance movement, which the Finance Member has so gracefully done, will be but a poor consolation to the people of this country.

The Agricultural Department ought to be a life-giving Department in an agricultural country like ours; but it is regrettable in the extreme that it is the one lifeless Department of our State. (*Hear, hear.*) Coming, as I do, from Cranganur, a place noted for cocoanut cultivation, I can bear testimony to the fact that there are hundreds of cultivators in this country, who are not even aware of the existence of the Agricultural Department, much less of its working. (*Hear, hear.*) The reason is not far to seek. The maintenance of a Central Farm as a mere curiosity in one part of the State cannot work out the improvement of agriculture. Scientific ideas of agriculture should percolate to the masses of the cultivators before they can be expected to shake off their conservatism and superstition and take to modern methods of cultivation. The opening in rotation a demonstration farm or two in each Taluk suggested by the Special Finance Committee should immediately be done as a first step in the direction of making this Department truly useful. Dissemination of correct and scientific ideas of cultivation among the people by periodical lectures and the publication of pamphlets in easy and popular language. The Superintendent of Agriculture and the Agricultural Inspectors can do a good

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deal by way of propaganda in popularising the modern ideas of agriculture. A much larger provision ought to be made in the budget for this Department, if it is to work for the benefit of the people. Unless the Agricultural Department is made a functioning and prosperous one, the inexhorable economic law of diminishing return will spell the material ruin of the people.

As has been rightly observed, the clubbing together of the Agricultural and the Panchayat Departments makes both equally inefficient. The Panchayats submit several schemes of rural reconstruction for the sanction of the Department, but they are in the vast majority of cases turned down. Complaints are often heard that, even in matters relating to urgent repairs of the means of communications, the Department shows laxity bordering on callousness. I know the instance of two bridges under the Edavilangu Panchayats in a hopeless state of dilapidation, and my information is that, though the Panchayat has been pleading for their reconstruction for the lest 3 years, the Department has done nothing in that direction. There is no provision made for it in the present budget either. The great delay in ckeck-measuring completed works under the Panchayats causes the lapsing of money provided for such works, and this is a serious grievance of several Panchayats of the State.

The Education Department can well pride itself on the remarkable progress made by the State in the matter of education. My only desire is that suggestions made on the floor of this House for the improvement of the quantity as well as the quality of the work done by this Department will receive the earnest and sympathetic attention of the Member for Education. I would bring to his notice some of the needs of the constituency, which I have the honour to represent. The repeated demand made by influential Muslim public bodies for the extension of stipends to Muslim girls in Vernacular schools has not been heeded to, and the consequence is that a large number of Muslim girls, who would, otherwise, have gladly attended schools, are thrown out of the pale of education. The reduction of stipends used to be given to girls attending English schools also caused a set-back to the cause of female education among Muslims. It is my request to the Government that, the amelioration of the educationally backward communities being a prime duty of the State, the Government should not grudge, much less withdraw, the concessions necessary to popularise the message of education among these communities. The highly inadequate pay of the Arabic and Quran teachers is a matter which does not seem to have come to the notice of the Government. The Quran teachers are paid a pittance of Rs. 9 per mensem, even after

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they are asked to qualify themselves by passing an examination and do a larger amount of work than before. The Arabic teachers stand on a par with Sanskrit Pandits in point of the difficulty of the work they have to handle, both having to teach two of the most difficult classics. The increase of the pay of the Quran teachers from Rs. 9 to Rs. 15 at least and the classification of the Arabic teachers along with the Sanskrit Pandits in the matter of their salary should, in the interests of justice, be effected immediately.

Before concluding, I deem it a duty to express my whole-hearted support to all that has been said by my Hon'ble friend, the Member for Trippunittura, about the purification of the Judicial Department. The Government should lose no time in nipping in the bud the evil of corruption that has crept into a Department where it cannot be tolerated for one moment.

I conclude, Sir, with the hope that the suggestions made by the Members of this House in the course of the General Discussion will receive the best attention of the Government.

മിസ്റ്റർ എ. കുഞ്ഞുമൊയ്തീൻ.—മാന്യ അദ്ധ്യക്ഷൻഅവർകളെ, ഇന്നലെയും ഇന്നുമായി ഈ സഭയിലെ ബഹുമാനപ്പെട്ട പലെ മെമ്പർമാരും ബഡ്ജററിനെ നല്ലവിധത്തിൽ നിരൂപണം ചെയ്തുകഴിഞ്ഞിരിക്കകൊണ്ട് ചർവ്വിതചർവ്വണംചെയ്യ് വിലയേറിയ സമയം നഷ്ടപ്പെടുത്താൻ ഞാൻ വിചാരിക്കുന്നില്ല. എങ്കിലും ഞാൻ പ്രാതിനിദ്ധ്യംവഹിക്കുന്ന കൊടുങ്ങല്ലൂരിനെക്കുറിച്ച് സാമാജികന്മാരിൽ മിക്കവേക്കും തരമായ അറിവുണ്ടായിരിക്കാൻ തരം ഇല്ലാത്തതുകൊണ്ടും എന്റെ നിയോജകമണ്ഡലത്തെക്കുറിച്ചുള്ള സങ്കടങ്ങളും വിഷമതകളും കൗൺസ്സിലിന്റെ ദൃഷ്ടിയിൽ പെടുത്തേണ്ടതു് എന്റെ ചുമതല ആയിരിക്കുന്നതുകൊണ്ടും സംക്ഷിപ്തമായിട്ട് ഞങ്ങളുടെ സങ്കടങ്ങളേയും ആവശ്യങ്ങളേയും ഇവിടെ വിവരിക്കാം.

കൊടുങ്ങല്ലൂർ താലൂക്ക് ഏതു ചതുരശ്രമൈൽ മാത്രമുള്ള ഒരു ചെറിയ സ്ഥലമാണ്. ആ താലൂക്കിൽ നമ്മുടെ ബഹുമാനപ്പെട്ട ഗവമ്മെണ്ട്, ഒരു രാജ്യത്തു് ഗവമ്മെണ്ടു ചെയ്യേണ്ടതായ ഉപകാരങ്ങളിൽവെച്ച് ഏറ്റവും ഫലപ്രദവും പ്രഥമവുമായ ഗതാഗത സൗകര്യങ്ങളും എത്രമാത്രം ചെയ്തു തന്നിട്ടുണ്ടെന്നുള്ള കാര്യം ആലോചിക്കുമ്പോൾ അതു് ഏറ്റവും വ്യസനിക്കത്തക്കതാണെന്നു പറയാനേ എനിക്കു സാധിക്കുകയുള്ളൂ. ഒന്നാമതായി അഴീക്കോടു—കാര, കാര—കോതപറമ്പു് എന്ന ഈ റോഡുകൾ വേനല്ക്കാലത്തു മണി കഴിഞ്ഞാൽ പൂട്ട പഴുത്ത മണലായിരിക്കുന്നതുകൊണ്ടു യാതൊരു വിധത്തിലും സഞ്ചാരയോഗ്യങ്ങളല്ല. റോഡുകൾ കല്ലിട്ടു തല്ലാത്തതുകൊണ്ടു് വാഹനങ്ങൾക്കു് അതിലേ ഗതാഗതം ചെ

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യ്യാൻ സൗകര്യം ഇല്ലെന്നു് പ്രത്യേകം പറയേണ്ടതില്ലല്ലൊ. കൊടുങ്ങല്ലൂക്കു് ഗവമ്മെണ്ടു് പ്രധാനമായി ചെയ്തന്നിട്ടുള്ള ഗതാഗതസംബന്ധമായ സൗകര്യം കൊടുങ്ങല്ലൂർ—കോതപറമ്പു റോഡും, അരാകുളം—അഴീക്കോടു റോഡും മാത്രമാണു്. അതിൽ അരാകുളം—അഴീക്കോടു റോഡിനെപ്പറ്റി വിവരിക്കുകയാണെങ്കിൽ ഇവിടെയിരിക്കുന്ന എല്ലാ മെംബർമാരും ചിരിച്ചുപോവും. യാതൊരു പ്രയോജനവും ഇല്ലാതെ ഗവമ്മെണ്ടു് വലുതായ ഒരുതുക നഷ്ടപ്പിക്കുകയാണു് ആ റോഡിന്റെ പണികൊണ്ടു് സാധിച്ചിട്ടുള്ളതു്. വേദനയനുഭവിക്കാതെ ആ റോഡിൽകൂടി നടക്കുവാൻ സാധിക്കുന്നതല്ല. വാഹനങ്ങൾ യാതൊരുവിധത്തിലും അതിലെ കൊണ്ടുപോകുവാൻ നിവൃത്തി ഇല്ലാതിരിക്കുന്നു. ഈയ്യിടെ കൊടുങ്ങല്ലൂരിൽ ഒരു ബസ്സു് സർവ്വീസും തുടങ്ങുകയുണ്ടായി. ഈ റോഡുവഴി ഒരു ലയിൻ തുറന്നുവെങ്കിലും ഈ റോഡിന്റെ അനാശാസ്യമായ വളവുകൾകൊണ്ടും മറ്റുചിലവിധ ദുരിതങ്ങൾകൊണ്ടും ആ ബസ്സു മറിഞ്ഞുപോവുകയും യാത്രക്കാർക്കു് നിർഭയം സഞ്ചരിക്കാൻ സാധിക്കുകയില്ലെന്നു വരികയും ചെയ്തിരിക്കുന്നു. ഗതാഗതസംബന്ധമായി ഗവമ്മെണ്ടു് കൊടുങ്ങല്ലൂരിൽ യാതൊരു സൗകര്യവും ചെയ്തിട്ടില്ലെന്നു് തീർത്തു പറയാൻ സാധിക്കും.

ഇനി ഗതാഗത സൗകര്യത്തിലുൾപ്പെട്ട തോടുകളെക്കുറിച്ചു പറയുകയാണെങ്കിൽ അതു കഷ്ടാൽകഷ്ടതരമാണെന്നു വേണം പറയുവാൻ. സമുദ്രതീരത്തോടു വളരെ സമീപിച്ചിരിക്കുന്നതായ അറപ്പുതോടു് എന്ന പ്രസിദ്ധവും പ്രധാനവുമായ ഗതാഗതമാർഗ്ഗം അഴീക്കോടു, എറിയാടു, എടവിലങ്ങു് എന്നീവില്ലേജു നിവാസികളുടെ ഗതാഗതത്തിനും ചരക്കുകൾ കൊണ്ടുപോകുന്നതിനും നിദാനമായിരിക്കുന്ന ഒന്നാണു്. ഈ തോടിന്റെ സ്ഥിതി വളരെ ഭയാനകമായിരിക്കുന്നുവെന്നു് ഞാൻ വിനയസമേതം പ്രസ്താവിച്ചുകൊള്ളുന്നു. കടലിന്റെ ആക്രമണംകൊണ്ടു് അറപ്പുതോടിന്റെ തെക്കുഭാഗം മുഴുവനും മണൽ വീഴുകയും നികന്നു വരികയും ചെയ്യുന്നു. അതിലേ ചരക്കുകൾ കൊണ്ടുപോകുവാനൊ യാത്രക്കാർക്കു് സഞ്ചരിക്കാനൊ ഒരു നിവൃത്തിയും ഇല്ലാതായിരിക്കുന്നു. അടുത്തകാലത്തു് അറപ്പുതോടിന്റെ പലഭാഗങ്ങളും നികന്നു ഏകവലം തരിശായിക്കിടന്നുപോകുവാൻ ഇടയുള്ളതാണു്. അവിടെ കടലാക്രമണംകൊണ്ടു് കരനശിച്ചു് എന്റെ പുണ്ടാണിവിരലിനോളം മാത്രം വീതിയിലായിട്ടുണ്ടു്. ഒരുപക്ഷെ, സമീപകാലത്തുതന്നെ അറപ്പുതോടു് കടലായിത്തീരുവാനിടയുണ്ടു്. ആ അത്യാപത്തിനെ പരിഹരിക്കാൻ സുഗമമായ മാർഗ്ഗം ഉണ്ടു്. അറപ്പുതോടിനു അല്പം കിഴക്കു ബ്ലാങ്ങച്ചാലിതോടു് എന്നൊരു ചെറിയ ഗതാഗതമാർഗ്ഗമുണ്ടു്. ആ തോടു് വടക്കോട്ടെന്നു അറപ്പുതോടിൽ എത്തിച്ചേരുന്നുണ്ടു്. ആ തോടിനെ ആഴവും വീതിയും വരുത്തി

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നന്നാക്കുകയും അറ്റകുറ്റപ്പണിതോടു് വെട്ടിത്തെളിയിക്കുകയും ചെയ്യുന്നപക്ഷം ആ ഭയങ്കരമായ ആപത്തിൽനിന്നും ജനങ്ങൾക്കു് രക്ഷ പ്രാപിക്കാൻ സാധിക്കും. ഇതു കൊടുങ്ങല്ലൂർ താലൂക്കിന്റെയും എടവിലങ്ങു വില്ലേജിന്റെയും പടിഞ്ഞാറെ ഭാഗങ്ങളിലുള്ള ജനങ്ങൾക്കു് മുഴുവനും വളരെ അനുഗ്രഹപ്രദമായ ഒരു പ്രവൃത്തിയായിരിക്കുമെന്നു് ഞാൻ വിനയപൂർവ്വം അറിയിച്ചുകൊള്ളുന്നു.

ഇത്രയണത്തെ ബഡ്ജറ്റിൽ ൨,൫൦൦ രൂപാമാത്രമെ കൊടുങ്ങല്ലൂരിലെ പ്രധാനവും വളരെ അടിയന്തിരവും ഗൗരവതരവും ആയ ഈ പണികൾക്കായി അനുവദിച്ചുകാണുന്നുള്ളു. ഇതു ഒട്ടുംതന്നെ മതിയാകാത്തതാണു്. ഈ പണികൾ വളരെ അടിയന്തിരമായി ചെയ്യേണ്ടതാണു്. എന്നുമാത്രമല്ല ൨,൫൦൦ രൂപാമാത്രം അവിടെ ചിലവഴിച്ചുകഴിഞ്ഞാൽ മറ്റു ഒരു ൨൫൦൦ ഓ ൩,൫൦൦ ഓ വരുന്നകൊല്ലത്തിലും ഇപ്പോൾ ചെയ്യുന്നപണികൾക്കായിതന്നെ അവിടെ വ്യയം ചെയ്യേണ്ടിവരുമെന്നു് ഗവമ്മെണ്ടു ഗാഢമായി ചിന്തിക്കേണ്ടിയിരിക്കുന്നു. ഗവമ്മെണ്ടു് ഗൗരവമേറിയതും പ്രധാനവുമായ പല ജനങ്ങൾക്കും തുക കുറച്ചും അപ്രധാനമായ വകയ്ക്കു് തുക കൂട്ടിയും ചിലവു ചെയ്യാനാണു് ഭാവിച്ചിരിക്കുന്നതെന്നു് ബഡ്ജറ്റു കൊണ്ടു് കാണുന്നു. ലോകമലേശ്വരം വില്ലേജിൽ ഒരു Drainage Canal നു ൨,൫൦൦ രൂപാ എസ്റ്റിമേറു് കൊള്ളിച്ചിരിക്കുന്നു. ഇതു് തീരെ ആവശ്യമില്ലാത്ത ഒരു പണിയാണെന്നു് ഞാൻ പറയുന്നില്ല. എങ്കിലും അറ്റകുറ്റപ്പണിതോടു്, ബ്ലാങ്ങാച്ചാലിതോടു് മുതലായ വളരെ അത്യാവശ്യപണികൾ ചെയ്യേണ്ടിയിരിക്കെ ഈ പണിക്കു തല്ക്കാലം ആവശ്യമില്ലെന്നുതന്നെ പറയാവുന്നതാണു്. അതിനാൽ ഈ പണിക്കു ഉദ്ദേശിച്ചിട്ടുള്ള സംഖ്യ കൂടി അറ്റകുറ്റപ്പണിതോടു് മുതലായവയുടെ പണിക്കു് കൂട്ടിചേർക്കേണ്ടതാണു്.

ഞാൻ മുൻ പ്രസ്താവിച്ച അഴീക്കോടു്—കാര റോഡു് മിസ്റ്റർ ഭോർദിവനായിരിക്കുന്ന കാലത്തു നമ്മുടെ രാജ്യത്തു് ഒട്ടാകെ ഗതാഗതസൗകര്യം വർദ്ധിപ്പിക്കേണ്ടതിനെപ്പറ്റി അന്വേഷിക്കുവാൻ നിയോഗിക്കപ്പെട്ട കമ്മറ്റി ഉടനെ പണി തീർക്കേണ്ടതാണെന്നു് ശുപാർശ ചെയ്തതായി എനിക്കറിയാം. ഇതിനും പുറമെ "കൊടുങ്ങല്ലൂർ റോഡു് കമ്മറ്റി" എന്ന പേരോടുകൂടി ഗവമ്മെണ്ടു് അടുത്ത കാലത്തു് നിയമിച്ച കമ്മറ്റിയും ശുപാർശ ചെയ്തതായി ഞാൻ അറിയുന്നുണ്ടു്. അതുകൊണ്ടു് ബഹുമാനപ്പെട്ട ഗവമ്മെണ്ടു് ൨൫ ചതുരശ്ര മൈൽ മാത്രമുള്ള എന്റെ നിയോജകമണ്ഡലത്തിൽപ്പെട്ട കൊടുങ്ങല്ലൂരിലെ ഈ അടിയന്തിരമായ കാര്യങ്ങളിൽ ഉടനെ ഗാഢമായ ശ്രദ്ധ പതിക്കണമെന്നു് ഞാൻ പ്രത്യേകം അപേക്ഷിച്ചുകൊള്ളുന്നു.

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അടിയന്തിരമായ പ്രസ്തുത കായ്ങ്ങൾക്കും അതുപോലെ കൊടുങ്ങല്ലൂക്കു ആവശ്യമായ മറ്റു സംഗതികൾക്കും അപേക്ഷകൾ ചെയ്യുവാൻ സർക്കാരിനെ അലട്ടിക്കൊണ്ടിരുന്നാൽ പണമില്ല, ഫണ്ടില്ല എന്ന ഏക സമാധാനമാണ് പറഞ്ഞുകാണുന്നതു്. കൊടുങ്ങല്ലൂരിൽ പണം ഉണ്ടാകേണ്ടതായ വഴികൾ സർക്കാരിന്നുണ്ടു് അടച്ചിരിക്കുന്നതു കൊണ്ടുമാത്രമാണ് അവിടെ പണം ഇല്ലാതിരിക്കുന്നതും സർക്കാരിനു ഇങ്ങിനെ പറയാൻ ഇടയാകുന്നതും. ഇക്കൊല്ലത്തെ ബഡ്ജറ്റിൽ മുൻകൊല്ലങ്ങളിലെ ബഡ്ജറ്റിനെ അപേക്ഷിച്ചു് കുറെ കൂടുതൽ സംഖ്യ കൊടുങ്ങല്ലൂർ മുതലെടുപ്പിൽ ചേർത്തുകാണുന്നുണ്ടു്. അതു കരുപ്പു്, കഞ്ഞാവു, കള്ളിനാൽ പിരിവു് മുതലായ ഇനങ്ങളിലെ വരവാണു്. മുൻകൊല്ലങ്ങളിലും ഈ വക വരവു ഉണ്ടായിരുന്നുവെങ്കിലും അതു കൊടുങ്ങല്ലൂർ ബഡ്ജറ്റിൽ ചേർത്തിരുന്നില്ല. ഇപ്പോഴെങ്കിലും അങ്ങിനെ ചെയ്തതിൽ ഞാൻ സർക്കാരിനെ അഭിനന്ദിക്കുന്നു. ഇതുപോലെ കൊടുങ്ങല്ലൂക്കു ന്യായമായി കിട്ടാൻ അവകാശപ്പെടുന്ന സകല ഇനങ്ങളിലെയും വരവുകൾ കൊടുങ്ങല്ലൂക്കു കൊടുക്കേണ്ടതാകുന്നു. ഇൻറർപോർട്ടൽ ട്രെയിഡ് കൺവെൻഷൻ (Inter-portal Trade Convention) പ്രകാരം ബ്രിട്ടീഷ് സർക്കാരിൽനിന്നും കൊച്ചിസർക്കാരിനു കിട്ടുന്ന തുകയുടെ ഒരോഹരി കൊടുങ്ങല്ലൂക്കു നിശ്ചയമായും കൊടുക്കേണ്ടതാണു്. അങ്ങിനെ കിട്ടുന്നതിൽ ഒരു ശതമാനം വീതം കൊടുങ്ങല്ലൂക്കു് കൊടുക്കണമെന്നു സ്പെഷ്യൽഫിനാൻസു കമ്മിറ്റി ശിപാർശ ചെയ്തിട്ടുള്ളതായി അറിയുന്നു. കൊടുങ്ങല്ലൂരിലേയും കൊച്ചിയിലേയും ജനസംഖ്യ നോക്കിയാൽ ഈ വരവിൽ മൂന്നു ശതമാനം നമ്മുടെ ബഹുമാനപ്പെട്ട സർക്കാരിന്നു് കൊടുങ്ങല്ലൂക്കു വകവെച്ചുകൊടുക്കേണ്ടതാണു്. അതിനു കൊടുങ്ങല്ലൂരിനു അവകാശമുണ്ടെന്നാകുന്നു ഞാൻ പറയുന്നതു്. കയറുമതിച്ചുങ്കം അവിടെ നിന്നും ധാരാളം അയയ്ക്കുന്നതു കൊണ്ടും ഇറക്കുമതിയിൽ നല്ലൊരു ഭാഗം അവിടെ ചിലവഴിക്കുന്നതിനാലും ബഹുമാനപ്പെട്ട സർക്കാരിന്നു് ഈ തുകയുടെ മൂന്നു ശതമാനം വീതം ആദായം കൊടുങ്ങല്ലൂക്കു് വകവെച്ചു് കൊടുക്കണമെന്നു് ഞാൻ അപേക്ഷിച്ചുകൊള്ളുന്നു.

എന്റെ നിയോജകമണ്ഡലത്തിലെ പഞ്ചായത്തുകളുടെസ്ഥിതിയും ദയനീയമെന്നേ പറയേണ്ടു. കൊടുങ്ങല്ലൂരിൽ ലോകമലേശ്വരം, മേത്തല എന്നീരണ്ടു പഞ്ചായത്തുകളാണുള്ളതു്. ആ പഞ്ചായത്തുകളുടെ സ്ഥിതിഗതികളെപ്പറ്റി ആലോചിക്കുമ്പോൾ വളരെ അത്ഭുതമാണുണ്ടാകുന്നതു്. പൗരാവലിയെ അതായതു പൊതുജനങ്ങളെ സ്വയംഭരണത്തിനു പ്രാപ്തരാക്കിത്തീർക്കുന്നതിനുള്ള ഒരു ഏർപ്പാടാണല്ലൊ പഞ്ചായത്തു ഭരണം. എന്നാൽ കൊടുങ്ങല്ലൂരിലെ പഞ്ചായത്തുകൾ വെറും തോട്ടികളെ ഭരിക്കാനും വിളക്കു കത്തിക്കാനുമുള്ള ഒരു സ്ഥാപനമായിട്ടാണ് കാണുന്നതു്. ഈ

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രണ്ടു പഞ്ചായത്തുകളും അടുത്ത കൊല്ലത്തിലേക്ക് വളരെ അത്യാവശ്യമായ ഗതാഗതസൗകര്യങ്ങൾക്കുംമറ്റും ബഡ്ഡറ്റ് തയ്യാറാക്കി അയച്ചതായി ഞാൻ അറിയുന്നുണ്ട്. എന്നാൽ തോട്ടികർക്കും അതുപോലെയുള്ള വാളക്കു വയ്പിനും എസ്റ്റാബ്ലിഷ്മെണ്ടിനും മാത്രംഉള്ള തുകയേ ബഡ്ഡറ്റിൽ ചേർത്തുകാണുന്നുള്ളു. ഇതു് ഒട്ടുംആശാസ്യമായിട്ടുള്ള നയമല്ല.ഈ സഭയിലെ പല ബഹു:മെംബർമാരും പ്രസ്താവിച്ചതുപോലെ പഞ്ചായത്തു ഡിപ്പാർട്ട്മെണ്ടും കൃഷി ഡിപ്പാർട്ട്മെണ്ടും വെവ്വേറെ അദ്ധ്യക്ഷന്മാരുടെ അധീനതയിൽ ആക്കാത്തതുകൊണ്ടു വരുന്ന ഒരു ദോഷമാണെന്നതന്നെ പറയേണ്ടതായിരിക്കുന്നു. ഈ വിഷയം ഗവർമ്മെണ്ടിന്റെ ദൃഷ്ടിയിൽ പെട്ടിട്ടുണ്ടെന്നു കാണുന്നതുകൊണ്ട് ആ പരിഷ്കാരം ഉടനെ നടപ്പിൽ വരുത്തണമെന്നു് അപേക്ഷിക്കുന്നതല്ലാതെ അതിനെപ്പറ്റി കൂടുതലായി പറയുവാൻ വിചാരിക്കുന്നില്ല.

വില്ലേജു ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാർക്ക്, പൊതുവെ താഴ്ന്ന ശമ്പളക്കാർക്കൊക്കെ ശമ്പളം കൂട്ടിക്കൊടുക്കേണമെന്നുള്ള കൗൺസ്സിൽ മെംബർമാരുടെ ഭൂരിപക്ഷത്തോടു് ഞാനും ബലമായി യോജിക്കുന്നു. നമ്മുടെ രാജ്യത്തു് ന്യൂ രൂപയിൽ കൂടിയ ശമ്പളം ആവശ്യപ്പെടുന്നയാതൊരു ഡിപ്പാർട്ട്മെണ്ടു മേലദ്ധ്യക്ഷനേയും വേണ്ടാ എന്നാണ് എന്റെ അഭിപ്രായം. ന്യൂ രൂപായൊ അതിൽ താഴെയൊ ഉള്ള ഒരു ശമ്പളം മാത്രം വാങ്ങിക്കൊണ്ടു് ശ്രേയസ്കരമാംവണ്ണം രാജ്യസേവനം ചെയ്യുവാൻ സമ്മതമുള്ള സ്വദേശാഭിമാനികളും ദേശഭക്തന്മാരും യോഗ്യന്മാരും ആയ പലരും നമ്മുടെ കൊച്ചിരാജ്യത്തുണ്ടു്. അങ്ങനെയുള്ള ദേശഭക്തന്മാർ സന്തോഷത്തോടുകൂടി ഉദ്യോഗം വഹിച്ചു് ന്യായമായ ശമ്പളത്തിൽ രാജ്യസേവനം ചെയ്യുമെന്നാണ് എന്റെ ബലമായ പ്രതീക്ഷ. വല്ല സംഗതികളിലും അതിനു പ്രാപ്തരായ ആളുകൾ ഇല്ലെന്നുകണ്ടാൽ വിദഗ്ധന്മാരെ വെളിയിൽ നിന്നും വരുത്തുന്നതിനും കൂടുതൽ ശമ്പളം കൊടുക്കുന്നതിനും വിരോധമില്ലാത്തതാണു്. കഴിയുന്നതും ഓരോ പ്രത്യേക വിഷയങ്ങളിലും വിദഗ്ധന്മാരെ ഇവിടത്തന്നെ ഉണ്ടാക്കാനും ശ്രമിക്കണം. അതുകൊണ്ടു് ഇപ്പോൾ ഡിപ്പാർട്ട്മെണ്ടു മേലധികാരികൾക്കു് കൊടുത്തുവരുന്ന അധികമായ തോതു് വെട്ടിക്കുറച്ചു് ആ തുക താഴ്ന്ന ശമ്പളക്കാർക്കു് പങ്കുവെച്ചു കൊടുക്കുന്നതായാൽ ആ സാധുക്കൾക്കു് അത്യാവശ്യമായ നിത്യവൃത്തിക്കുള്ള സംഖ്യ എങ്കിലും കിട്ടുന്നതാണു്. ഈ സംഗതി ഗവർമ്മെണ്ടു് ജീവകാരുണ്യബോധത്തോടുകൂടി ആലോചിക്കേണ്ടതാകുന്നു.

എന്റെ നിയോജകമണ്ഡലത്തിൽ പെട്ട ചേന്ദമംഗലം നിവാസികൾ അവിടെ ഒരു ഡിസ്പെൻസറി സ്ഥാപിച്ചു കിട്ടുന്നതിനു് ഗവർമ്മെണ്ടിനോടു അപേക്ഷിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ടു്. അതു് വളരെ പ്രധാനവും അത്യാവശ്യവും ആയ ഒരു അപേക്ഷയാണു്. ചേന്ദമംഗ

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ലും പുഴയാൽ ചുറ്റപ്പെട്ടിരിക്കുന്ന ഒരു പ്രദേശമാകുന്നു. അവിടെ വല്ലവർക്കും സുഖക്കേടു പിടിപെട്ടാൽ കൊടുങ്ങല്ലൂർ ആശുപത്രിയെ ശരണം പ്രാപിക്കേണ്ടതായിട്ടാണിരിക്കുന്നതു്. വർഷകാലങ്ങളിൽ ഒരു രോഗിയെ അവിടെ നിന്നും കൊടുങ്ങല്ലൂർ കൊണ്ടുവന്നു് ഡാക്ടരെ കാണാനൊ ഡാക്ടരെ കൂട്ടിക്കൊണ്ടുപോകുന്നതിനൊ ഉള്ള വിഷമം ചില്ലറയല്ല. ഈ അടുത്ത ഒരവസരത്തിൽ ചേന്ദമംഗലത്തു് ഒരു സ്ത്രീ ഗർഭം ധരിച്ചു് വൈഷമ്യഘട്ടത്തിലെത്തി. ഡാക്ടറെ വിളിക്കാൻ കൊടുങ്ങല്ലൂക്കു് ആളുംപോയി. പക്ഷെ സഞ്ചാര സൗകര്യത്തിനുള്ള വിഷമം ഹേതുവാൽ ഡാക്ടർ സ്ഥലത്തെത്തുന്നതിനുമുമ്പു് സ്ത്രീ മരിച്ചുപോയി. യാത്രാസൗകര്യം ഉണ്ടായിരുന്നുവെങ്കിൽ ഡാക്ടക്കു് നേരത്തെ എത്തുന്നതിനും ചികിത്സിക്കുന്നതിനും സാധിച്ചേയ്ക്കാം. അതുകൊണ്ടു് ഗവമ്മെണ്ടു് ആ കാര്യത്തിൽ പ്രത്യേകം ശ്രദ്ധപതിക്കേണമെന്നു് അപേക്ഷിക്കുന്നു.

ചേന്ദമംഗലം പഞ്ചായത്തു് തിരഞ്ഞെടുപ്പു നടന്നാട്ടു് മാസം രണ്ടുമൂന്നായി. ഇതേവരെ ആ തിരഞ്ഞെടുപ്പു് ഗവമ്മെണ്ടു് അംഗീകരിച്ചതായി പരസ്യംചെയ്കയൊ നോമിനേറു് ചെയ്യേണ്ട മെംബർമാരെ നോമിനേറു് ചെയ്കയൊ ഉണ്ടായിട്ടില്ല. ഇങ്ങനെ പല സ്ഥലത്തും വളരെ ആലസ്യം കണ്ടുവരുന്നുവെന്നുള്ള ഓരോരൊ കാര്യങ്ങളെപ്പറ്റി ആലോചിക്കുമ്പോൾ വീണ്ടും വീണ്ടും പഞ്ചായത്തിനെക്കുറിച്ചുപറയുവാൻ തോന്നുന്നതാണു്.

തിരുവഞ്ചിക്കുളം കനാൽ ചിലവു വകയിലും ൧,൦൦൦ രൂപാ ഓഹരിയായി കൊടുങ്ങല്ലൂക്കു് കൊടുത്തുകാൺന്നു. അതിൽ ൨,൦൦൦ രൂപാ എസ്റ്റാബ്ലിഷ്മെൻറു് ചാർജ്ജിന്നു്. ചിലവു കാണുകയും ചെയ്യുന്നു. അതിനാൽ ആ കണക്കു് എനിക്കു് വിശദമായി മനസ്സിലാകുന്നില്ല. എന്റെ അന്വേഷണത്തിലും അറിവിലും ഈ വകയിൽ ൧,൦൦൦ രൂപാ കൊടുങ്ങല്ലൂരിനു കിട്ടിയാൽ പോരാ എന്നാണു്. Establishment charges നുവേണ്ടി കൊള്ളിച്ചിരിക്കുന്ന ൨,൦൦൦ രൂ. അധികമായിപോയെന്നും എനിക്കഭിപ്രായമുണ്ടു്.

എക്സൈസ് ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെണ്ടിനെപ്പറ്റി പല മെംബർമാരും രേഖതയായി സംസാരിച്ചുകഴിഞ്ഞു. മദ്യപാന നിരോധനം ചെയ്യേണ്ട ആവശ്യകതയെക്കുറിച്ചു് ഒന്നാമത്തെ നിയമസഭയിലും ഈ കൗൺസിലിലുമായി പലരും പ്രസ്താവിക്കുകയുണ്ടായി. ഈ കാര്യം ഗവമ്മെണ്ടു് പ്രത്യേകം ദൃഷ്ടിവെക്കേണ്ടതൊന്നാണെന്നു ഞാനും പ്രത്യേകം പറയുന്നു.

ചില സംഗതികളെപ്പറ്റി ഞാൻ (Cut motion) ഉപക്ഷേപം അയച്ചിട്ടുള്ളതിനാൽ കൂടുതൽ പറയാനുള്ളതു് ആ സന്ദർഭത്തിൽ അറിയിക്കാമെന്നു കരുതുന്നു.

ഇന്നത്തെ ബഹുമാനപ്പെട്ട അദ്ധ്യക്ഷനവർകൾ ഞങ്ങളുടെ

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കൊച്ചി രാജ്യത്തിന്റെ മന്ത്രിപദത്തിലേക്ക് ഉയർത്തപ്പെട്ടകയും ഞങ്ങളുടെ ഈ യോഗത്തിൽ അദ്ധ്യക്ഷം വഹിക്കാൻ ഇടവരികയും ചെയ്തതിൽ എനിക്കും എന്റെ നിയോജകമണ്ഡലത്തിലെ ജനങ്ങൾക്കും ഉള്ള അകൈതവമായ സന്തോഷത്തെ ഇവിടെ പ്രസ്താവിക്കയും അങ്ങയെ അനുമോദിക്കയുംചെയ്യുകൊള്ളുന്നു.

Mr. M. A. Chakko.—Mr. President, Sir, I take it as my duty and my privilege as an elected Member of this House to make observations about the budget that is placed before us for discussion. Before doing so, I shall express my sincere feelings of joy at your elevation to the exalted office of the Diwan of Cochin, and President of this Council, during the period of the permanent Diwan's illness. I wish also to signify my humble and loyal appreciation of the gracious message from the Throne that you have conveyed to us. The reassurance to the House and through it to the people, whom we represent, that their happiness, contentment and prosperity are the foremost concern of His Highness our gracious Maharaja has stirred the deepest springs of our hearts. It shall spur us on to greater efforts to serve our fellow subjects whose representatives we are, and whose cause is so dear to us all.

As we approach the problems before us, and when our opinions differ, sometimes by difference of temperament, at other times on account of our over-zealousness and very often again owing to our various view-points, we shall indeed draw inspiration from the royal message, to co-operate heartily, to put our heads together to find out a solution.

The chief function of this House is to render assistance to the Government in their task to govern. We set about our business keeping before us the ideal of British Indian Legislative Council and the Legislative Assembly, if not the Mother of Parliaments itself. I feel that this side of the House figures itself as a boy strutting beside a toy motor-car fondly believing that it is a first-rate Rolls-Royce. The boyish impatience to get at the goal of *Full Responsible Government*, with the Executive responsible to the Legislature, at one dash becomes so patent sometimes, that the Government Benches derive no small pleasure to remind us that our toy vehicle is devoid of horse-power, almost to any appreciable extent. In disgust we look aghast! The cry of co-operation and yet more co-operation comes jarring to ears that have been hearing the distant music of tunes like "Government of the people by the people for the people", "Good Government is no substitute for self-government," etc. Some detatchment of mind is, therefore, required to come down from the high ideal to the plane of mat-

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ter-of-fact reality, to apply ourselves to the task before us in the right spirit.

Now, what have we before us? The budget of 1104 M. E. which is claimed to be a prosperity budget with a substantial surplus. The budget is balanced on the right side. Provision is made for the rainy day. The Hon'ble Finance Member's forethought deserves praise. I have no hesitation to congratulate him either. Nevertheless I cannot disguise the fact that there is much reason for regret, and no small disappointment. As has been pointed out by some of the previous speakers, it should give nobody any satisfaction that a big balance is accumulated by stinting expenditure to meet the legitimate needs of the people. In order to hoard up, the Government have been adopting a miserly policy. Deaf ears with a stone heart within was turned to the cries of the villagers repeated year after year for roads and canals, schools and dispensaries. It has left in the villagers the bitterness of feeling that their interests are neglected. There is no dispute as to the point that we must cut our coat according to the cloth. But the children of the family have good reason to grumble when they outgrow their coats and have to go about ill-clad for want of cloth to cut out a coat of proper size.

Cochin State, like the rest of the Malabar coast, is the favourite of fortune. Nature has been lavishing in gifts that have contributed to her prosperity. Individual selfhelp also has improved it a great deal. Government help was slow to come in recent years, though the irremovable Sirkar tax-finder and the tax gatherer have not been slow to take advantage of the circumstance and to appropriate a share, of course, always the lion's share, designating it as windfall. When a jungle region is cleared or an accretion land is formed, the eagle eye of the Government darts at the prey in no time. The villagers in their scramble for land welcomed the Government intervention, and never grudged the legitimate dues of the Government. It led them to entertain the hope that the Government would render them a helping hand to bring to fruition their labours on the virgin soil. But often times when measures that required Government help and contribution had to be planned and executed, they find the limb of the Government, who came in touch with them as tax-finder and tax-gatherer, is either impotent or unresponsive, and the powers that be, disinclined to be benevolent.

Tangible instance of this is not wanting in my own constituency, Narakkal. To the western side of Puthuvaipu, which itself is a windfall, the waves of the Arabian Sea meet the flood waters of the Chalakkudi, Alwaye and Menachil rivers, and in

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the conflict deprive the latter of the silt and mud borne on them and deposit the precious alluvium along the seashore to form the sea accretion lands, which in due time are developed into wet paddy fields and dry gardens in succession. The Government, in the first instance, appropriate the broad expanse of sand spit or mud flat, cut it into lots, and sell the land in auction, and realise a large amount commensurate with the speculative sagacity of the venturesome cultivators of the coastal regions. Besides the occasional windfall so obtained to swell the public coffers, the heaviest rate of land assessment is imposed on the land as soon as the villagers set about improving it for cultivation. The process starting with self-help would eventually reach the stage of corporate action when Government aid becomes inevitable. Canals become a dire necessity, at first for drainage and irrigation purposes, and subsequently as arteries of communication, when the lands become inhabited and develop into densely populated centres of industry and commerce. The Government are aware of it. They are quite at one with the villagers in holding that the canals would contribute largely to their natural prosperity. They are also conscious of the fact that the money realised hy the first auction sale and the tax collected from the industrious and toiling people is in their coffers. But the mania for surplus budget always stands in the way, to fulfil obligations. When the people get restive, and the cries become louder in despair, some excuse is invented to deny them the boon. In this connection I wish to remind the Government that plans and estimates prepared for two canals, one in Nayarambalam and the other in Kuzhupilli Cherai villages, still lie rotting in the shelves of some office, while the villagers' interests are suffering. A surplus budget can give no satisfaction to the people, who are kept waiting year after year by the successive Heads of Administration. I am, therefore, constrained to say that my congratulations are tinged with some amount of regret.

Happiness and contentment and prosperity of subjects cannot certainly co-exist with official corruption. When the watch-dogs harass the sheep of the flock, the condition is not conducive to happiness or contentment or prosperity. Purity of service is, therefore, a gem of inestimable value, for which no price demanded can be regarded as too high. The Hon'ble Member for Trippunittura has made pointed reference to corruption in a certain branch of service. He singled out officers of criminal justice. It must have been from his personal experience and intimate knowledge of that arm of Government that he has been testifying so eloquently. I dare say he has carried the House with him. But I am afraid that the dry rot in the Body

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Politic has spread further and wider. It is eating up the vitals of other branches of public service, who have the duty to protect the person and property of the subjects of the State. Exacting payments in return for boons and services asked for and rendered is perhaps in keeping with the policy of *give and take*. But when the poor law-abiding citizen has to propitiate the Hounds of law in order to be left in peace, the position is into lerable.

Whether the public servant is a Cochinite or Travancorian, British Indian or British born subject, of middle-age or is superannuated on points of nicety, about which the toiling and busy villager or the average man in the street is not much concerned, he does not mind it so long as these do serve the Government and the public properly, and do the duties entrusted to them satisfactorily. It is the kick of the dishonest officer that smarts him to the quick. The thought that the booted leg that dealt the blow is that of a Cochinite brings him no consolation indeed.

Now I shall conclude. I do not want to traverse grounds already covered by the previous speakers. It remains for me only to state "Let us serve our King and country first, and think of small matters last."

മിസ്റ്റർ പി. സി. ചാഞ്ചൻ.—കൊച്ചിരാജ്യത്തു് എത്രയും ബഹുമാനപ്പെട്ട നിയമനിർമ്മാണ സഭയിൽ അധഃകൃതവർഗ്ഗത്തിൽപെട്ട ഞങ്ങളുടെ അവകാശത്തെ ഗണിച്ചും സാധുക്കളായ ഞങ്ങൾക്കു് ഒരു പ്രതിനിധിയെ അനുവദിച്ചു് തന്നതിൽ പരിഷ്കൃതാശയനായ കൊച്ചി മഹാരാജാവു് തിരുമനസ്സിലേയും അവിടത്തെ ഗവർമ്മെണ്ടിന്റെയും നേരെ ഞങ്ങളുടെ സമുദായത്തിനുള്ള അകൈതവമായ കൃതജ്ഞതയെയും സന്തോഷത്തേയും അത്യന്ത ഭക്തിയോടുകൂടെ ഞാൻ ഈ സന്ദർഭത്തിൽ പ്രകാശിപ്പിച്ചുകൊള്ളുന്നു. വളരെ നൂറാണ്ടുകളായി മനുഷ്യസഹജമായ യാതൊരു സ്വാതന്ത്ര്യങ്ങളും അനുഭവിക്കുന്നതിനു് ഇടയാകാതെ അധഃപതിച്ചു് കിടക്കുന്ന ഞങ്ങളുടെ സ്ഥിതിയെ അഭിവൃദ്ധിപ്പെടുത്തുന്നതിനു ഇപ്പോഴത്തെ മഹാരാജാവു് തിരുമനസ്സിലേയ്ക്കു ഇടംപ്രഥമമായുണ്ടായ ഈ കരുണ കൊച്ചിരാജ്യ ചരിത്രത്തിൽ സുവർണ്ണലിപികളാൽ എന്നും രേഖപ്പെടുത്തത്തക്ക ഒരു സംഭവമായിരിക്കുന്നതാണു്. തിരുമനസ്സിലെയും തിരുമനസ്സിലെ രാജകുടുംബത്തിന്റെയും ശാശ്വതമായ ശ്രേയസ്സിനും നിലനില്പിനും വേണ്ടി സമുദായ പ്രതിനിധിയുടെ നിലയിൽ ഞാൻ സർവ്വാത്മനാ ഈശ്വരനോടു പ്രാർത്ഥിച്ചുകൊള്ളുന്നു.

ഞങ്ങളുടെ ജാതിക്കാരുടെ നികൃഷ്ടസ്ഥിതിയേയും കഴിച്ചിലിനെയും കുറിച്ചു എല്ലാവർക്കും നല്ല അറിവുള്ളതാകയാൽ അവയെ

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ഇവിടെ വിസ്തരിച്ചു പറയേണ്ട ആവശ്യമില്ല. ശ്രീപരശുരാമൻ കേരളം സ്ഥാപിച്ച കാലം മുതൽ ഇതേവരെയും, സ്ഥിതിയിൽ യാതൊരു വ്യത്യാസം കൂടാതെയും കേരളത്തിൽ മാറാള്ള വക്ക് അടിമപ്പെട്ടും നാനാവിധങ്ങളായ സ്ഥിതിഗതികളാലും പരിഷ്കാരങ്ങളാലും യാതൊരു മാറ്റവും സംഭവിക്കാതെയും നാട്ടിൽ അഭ്യന്തരിക്കുമാത്രം പാടുപെട്ടതന്നെ കഴിയുന്ന ഒരു സമുദായമാണ് ഞങ്ങളെന്നു എല്ലാവരും സമ്മതിക്കുന്ന പരമാർത്ഥമാണ്. മനുഷ്യലബ്ധമായ യാതൊരു സ്വാതന്ത്ര്യങ്ങളുടെയും സുഖങ്ങളുടെയും കണികപോലും ഞങ്ങളുടെ പഞ്ചേന്ദ്രിയങ്ങൾക്ക് വിഷയമായിട്ടില്ല. ചുരുക്കിപറയുന്നതായാൽ ഞങ്ങൾക്ക് പാർക്കുവാൻ സ്വന്തം സ്ഥലമില്ല, താമസിക്കുവാൻ വീടില്ല, ഉടുക്കുവാൻ മുണ്ടില്ല, കുടിക്കുവാൻ വെള്ളമില്ല, വഴിനടക്കുവാനും പാടില്ല എന്നുവേണ്ട ജീവസന്ധാരണത്തിനു് അത്യാവശ്യമായ ഭക്ഷണസാധനങ്ങളോ സ്വാതന്ത്ര്യ സുഖങ്ങളോ ഞങ്ങൾക്കില്ല. അന്യർക്കുവേണ്ടി ധനം ഉണ്ടാക്കികൊടുക്കുവാൻ അടിമകളായി പ്രയത്നിച്ചു മരിക്കുക എന്നുള്ളതുമാത്രമാണ് ഞങ്ങളുടെ ധർമ്മമായി കാണപ്പെട്ടുന്നതു്. ഇതരസമുദായക്കാരെപോലെ ഞങ്ങൾക്കും പരിഷ്കരിച്ചു നന്നാകുവാനുള്ള സൌകര്യങ്ങൾ യാതൊന്നും സിദ്ധിച്ചിരുന്നില്ല. വിദ്യയുടെയോ ധനത്തിന്റെയോ പരിഷ്കാരത്തിന്റെയോ വാതലുകളെല്ലാം ഞങ്ങൾക്കു പൂർവ്വകാലം മുതല്ക്കുതന്നെ അടയ്ക്കപ്പെട്ടിരിക്കുന്നു.

എന്നാൽ ഇപ്പോൾ പ്രജാക്ഷേമകാംക്ഷിയായ മഹാരാജാവു തിരുമനസ്സിലെ കരുണ പുലയരാദിയായ ഞങ്ങളുടെമേൽ പ്രത്യേകമായി പതിയുകയും ഞങ്ങളുടെ അഭ്യന്നതിക്കുള്ള മാർഗ്ഗങ്ങൾ തുറന്നുവെയ്ക്കുകയും ചെയ്തതുകൊണ്ടു് തിരുമനസ്സിലെ മറ്റു പ്രജകളെപ്പോലെ ഞങ്ങൾക്കും ക്രമമായ അഭിവൃദ്ധിയും നന്മയും ഉണ്ടാകണമെന്നാണ് തിരുമനസ്സിലെ ആഗ്രഹമെന്നു് പ്രത്യക്ഷത്തിൽ സ്പഷ്ടമായിട്ടുണ്ടു്. തിരുമനസ്സിൽനിന്നും അധഃകൃതസമുദായങ്ങളുടെ പ്രത്യേകമായ രക്ഷക്കു് ഒരു പുതിയ ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെണ്ടു് സൃഷ്ടിക്കുകയുംഅതനുസരിച്ചു പലേപ്രവൃത്തികളും തുടങ്ങുകയും ചെയ്തുകാണുന്നതു് ഇതിനു ദൃഷ്ടാന്തമാണ്. എന്നാൽ ഇപ്പോഴത്തെ ബഡ്ജറ്റിൽ ഞങ്ങൾക്കുവേണ്ടി അനുവദിച്ചിട്ടുള്ള ൫,൦൦൦ ഉറുപ്പികയും പാഴായി പോകാതെ ആ സംഖ്യമുഴുവൻ ഞങ്ങളുടെ ജനങ്ങൾക്കു യഥാർത്ഥത്തിൽ പ്രയോജനകരമായിത്തീരുന്നതിനു് തക്കതായ വ്യവസ്ഥകൾ ശവമ്മെണ്ടിൽനിന്നും ശ്രദ്ധയോടും നിഷ്കർഷയോടുംകൂടെ ചെയ്യണമെന്നാണ് ഞങ്ങൾക്കുള്ള താഴ്മയായ അപേക്ഷ. ഞങ്ങൾക്കു് ചെയ്തരുന്ന ഈ വിധമായ എല്ലാനന്മകൾക്കുമായി ഞങ്ങൾ മഹാരാജാവു തിരുമനസ്സിലെക്കും അവിടുത്തെ ശവമ്മെണ്ടിലേയ്ക്കും നന്ദിപറയുകയും ഈ സഭയിലെ മറ്റു അംഗ

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ങ്ങളുടെ സഹായ സഹകരണങ്ങളെ അപേക്ഷിക്കുകയും ചെയ്തുകൊണ്ട് ഞാൻ വിരമിക്കുന്നു.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—Sir, let me first congratulate you upon your appointment as the Diwan of Cochin, more so, because I had the privilege of knowing you ever since I was a student in this country. It is hailed with joy by every section of the population, and we hope and trust that His Highness will have many more sons of the soil from whom such choice can well be made for the administration of our State.

Sir, it is our privilege to stand here and fight for constitutional rights. The floor of the Legislative Council is the best platform, from where we can voice forth our aspirations, our needs and our requirements. The first requirement that we want in this country is, Sir, a responsible and responsive government. We are tired of having the bureaucratic system of administration, which is now almost an antiquated one, and it is high time that the system of bureaucratic administration is scrapped in the Cochin State. The Cochin State is the most advanced country, perhaps, I would say in the world, from the point of view of literacy and education, and the people have got sufficient and more of political acumen, whatever may be the opinion that may be voiced forth by the bureaucracy of Cochin, who still want to keep things in their own hands, and who would not let the people go into freedom. Sir, in freedom and freedom alone can any country rise to its full stature. If you stem that, no country can rise to its full stature for the material prosperity of the land. Judged from the point of view of the material prosperity of the land, the Cochin Government to-day stands absolutely condemned, because there is not one single Act, which I can point out, by which they have tried to advance the material prosperity of the population. High-sounding words and sentences of the Finance Member's speech and lip-sympathetic statements in the House do not go any way to ameliorate the poverty-stricken condition of the land. Allow me to tell you, Sir, I fail to see in the last three budgets and also in this budget one single constructive idea. To me the budget is an insipid document from top to bottom. I find no new sources of taxation, that nothing has been advanced that is new, and I find no attempt, not even a single suggestion made, to increase the prosperity of the land and to take out of the increased prosperity a portion of the welfare of the State as a whole. You have provided no facilities to put anything into the pockets of the people but your only intentions seem to be to take out as much as you can from their pockets. Is that what you call an efficient administration? As regards the efficiency of the administration, we

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have got sufficient material before this House, and in this new Council from the new Members we understand that corruption is walking stalwart in the land. This matter was brought to the notice of the Government during the last Council, and no action has been taken. I say the cause is, the Government was feeble and weak and not able to cope with the vigour of the younger generation. This is the reason why we ask you not to have superannuated men in the service. Their hands are weak to put down strong corrupt young men and, therefore, it is, Sir, that we ask you, whatever be the age of the Diwan, (that would not matter much) not to have superannuated Heads of Departments.

Now, Sir, I come to the actual reforms that we need. In this House, on 26th July 1926, about 28 Members of the last Council printed a memorandum with a prayer, and handed it over to the Diwan of Cochin. Questions were asked regarding that, viz., as to what has become of it, and the Secretary to the Diwan has always been pleased not to allow the questions, although the President of the House always allowed the questions; and when he was asked, how, when the President has allowed the question, he will not answer, the Government Advocate comes to his rescue to say that it is the privilege of the Government to decline to answer. What does that show? It shows that the element of responsibility that we wanted to be infused into the administration of our country, the element of responsibility which must be there to make them responsive and yield to the wishes of the Legislature, is steadily opposed. And they try to fence with us by the provisions of the Regulation and keep us out of those questions. Such kind of fencing is demeaning to any Government, and only spells weakness on their part. Therefore, Sir, I ask you, if you have the privilege vouched for guiding the destinies of Cochin for the next three years, to carefully consider all the pages of the Special Finance Committee's report, where the Member for the Jenmies has elaborately laid down a scheme of Government on pages 90, 91, 92 and 93 of the report. I endorse every word there and ardently and fondly desire with intense longing that the constitution of Cochin must be a Limited Monarchy as prevailing in England and that the Executive must be made to yield to the wishes of the Legislature.

You often tell us we have got only one aim; both the officials and non-officials can have but one aim, namely, the welfare of the country. If so, why should you take the blame for mal-administration? Throw it on to the Legislative Council. Carry out its wishes. It will save you from blunder-

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ing and blundering and blundering. (*Laughter.*) That is what is wanted in the coming year, and I, therefore, pray that, should you be destined to wield the destinies of Cochin, at least make an attempt to give us a Constitution, and this is the only rational constitution that any Government can give. Let us see what is it that prevails to-day. We have a Government of Cochin which is undefinable. We have put several questions to the Members who sit opposite to kindly define what the Government here means. Nobody says what it is. It is undefinable. Is it to the good name of the intelligentsia of Cochin that the Government of Cochin is unable to define what that Government of Cochin is? Sir, Government only means the machinery by which the welfare of the people are looked after. Our fight here till now is to get a proper system of Government. We are fighting here for a proper system, whereas everywhere else everybody is fighting for measures to advance the material prosperity of the country. Sir, if it is a truism to say that every country gets the Government it deserves, and if Cochin is to have only a Government guided by a bureaucracy, then woe be to them; I believe that people are by themselves made and the nation must rise to its legs and demand with a potent voice both inside and outside this House for an advanced Popular Ministerial Government in Cochin. We know the limitations, and we sympathise with the Cochin administration and the authorities of Cochin on that limitation that is imposed upon them, from outside and from behind the veil of which we cannot speak in this House. To-day we have an administration without any control. Sooner the Government of Cochin is made into a Responsible and Responsive one, the better for the administration, the better for the fair name of His Highness our beloved Ruler and the better for the country. Again, Sir, we have been asking for some modest immediate instalments of reforms which had been turned down. We asked for the right of supplementary questions. The result is a dwindling down of the number of questions that are answered. Many questions this morning have not been answered. We asked for information because we have a paid Secretary, who is charged with the duties of preparing and placing on the Table the answers to the questions we ask; is it fair to refer us to the previous six years' or twelve years' Gazette? (*Hear, hear.*) If the Secretary has not prepared the necessary answers, I would ask the President of this House, and respectfully, ask you, Sir, to put down such attitude to answers with an iron hand, because we, non-official Members, are not provided with any money by the State, and we have not got any Secretaries attached to every one of us to prepare all

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these things. We have a paid Secretariat in the country which is presided over by the Hon'ble Member sitting opposite to me and now laughing at me. (*Laughter.*) For shirking his duties, I say the sin is at the door of the Secretary who is to look after these things. Who furnished answers for those questions I asked yesterday. I am told by an Hon'ble Member who enlightened me that the answers were furnished by the Secretary to the Diwan. If this is so, a more impertinent answer to the House could not have been placed on the Table, as a result of the demand for the right of supplementary questions. I see such dwindling down of the rights in this House purposely made by the bureaucracy as a sign to show their very complete weakness to cope with the new era and the absence of a vision for a change for the better.

Again, Sir, we come to taxation. There is not a single tax now existing in this country which is with the consent of the country. Taxation without representation has been characterised in this House as robbery, and what do we find? Not a single tax imposed is with the consent of the people. It does not matter. The law has been passed hitherto in another way, and we are quite willing to pay all the taxes that have been imposed upon us, but, Sir, on the floor of this House when a question whether future taxation can be brought without the consent of this House was put, the Member for Mulakunnattukavu said that in future no taxation can be imposed upon the public of Cochin, and the Member for Irinjalakkuda said if that is so, we are content, and the President nodded. And what do we find? An agitation is going on upon the taxation in Mattancheri on the sea-going vessels. Was a word uttered in this House before the Chief Engineer passed orders to impose this burden? Was any attempt made to know what the Council's opinion was with reference to such new taxation? What does that show? That this House and its existence is brushed aside by the bureaucracy of Cochin, and it will be our duty to make them yield to our wishes.

Again, Sir, the Butler Committee is agitating the whole country from Himalayas to Cape Comorin. The report goes, our Diwan has been to Bombay and to Bangalore in connection with it. But the people of Cochin, who are to be affected by this, are left in utter darkness about it. Not even a Press Communique has been issued in the country to let us know what is going on. Is this the way to govern the people of this land? The local master and the British master say that we shall be loyal to both of them and we shall give them our allegiance. What in return? Absolute ignor-

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ing of us, absolute silence, not even a mention of the people of Cochin in their deliberations. That is the return that we get. Is this fair, I ask? I ask the world at large is it fair to treat people in Cochin like this? If it is so, I have nothing to say. But I submit that it is absolutely unfair that, when the destinies of people are being considered, to refuse even to give a hearing to them, is indeed harsh, to say softly.

Again, I will just touch upon the nepotism. Sir, we have sufficiently hammered the Government for the last three years. What is the use of hammering people who are deadened to all feelings? I shall refrain from that kind of action on anything that may be done in this present administration by the bureaucracy of Cochin, and I shall simply weep and pray that a time will come when the system may change, and my dreams may pass as realities in Cochin. Again, Sir, the sympathy of the Finance Member is well brought out in his speech (vide page 6 of his speech). What is the consolation that he gives to the fishing folks, who are poor? "A line has to be drawn somewhere." See the sympathy! We ask for bread, and we are given stones, and this is all the sympathy that is breathed in the Finance Member's speech of the administration report. I consider it as absolutely insipid.

Again, Sir, we have been pressing here for prohibition. What is the result? The revenue this year is more than in the last year, and what is the consolation given? The consolation is that we are discouraging drink by making it dear. Well, Sir, I shall paraphrase it in another way. You are encouraging drink and taking more out of the poor, because, Sir, the condition of Cochin is Brahmins, Nayars and the higher section of Christian population do not drink. Muhammadans do not drink. Then all the poor people alone drink, and this revenue is taken from them and, therefore, Sir, this tainted money should not be the prop on which we lean upon. Are the resources of the Cochin Government so small that they cannot devise a substitute for this purpose? If this is so, the sooner the Members who occupy the official benches allow us of this side to take up the Government of Cochin, the better for all concerned.

Again, Sir, on the 11th of April 1926, this House pressed and carried against Government opposition a resolution for an irrigation scheme. What was the result? We have been hearing about irrigation here, and my Hon'ble friend for Planters has also advocated upon it. But what is it that has happened? The bureaucracy, not caring a two-pence for the opinion of the Legislative Council, brushed it aside. To-day we have got an Irrigation Engineer and expert, and though we provided

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Rs. 16,000 for 1103, you have spent not a single pie out of it. This is encouragement, this is advancement of the material prosperity you have made. Is this the way to do it? If so, things must change for the better.

Mr. C. J. Mathew.—On a point of order. The Hon'ble Member has exceeded 20 minutes.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—I am not going to take advantage of the time, and so I shall stop.

Mr. P. Krishna Menon.—Standing for the first time to speak in this House, I come under great difficulties as I have to follow the Orator of the House. Though I remember Rule 48, allow me, Sir, to invite your kind attention to two sentences which occur in a Memorial presented by the Progressive Party of the last Council to His Highness the Maharaja on 18th Kumbham 1103. In that Memorial two sentences occur which I wish to place before the House. As the sentences are sufficiently explanatory, I do not wish to refer to the context. The first sentence is (the Member read out a sentence). The second sentence is "we make bold to request your Highness to be graciously pleased to grant with the opening of the next Council (i. e., this Council), a non-official President." Without inflicting serious injury upon anybody concerned by the inscrutable ways of Providence, this prayer of the Progressive Party has been literally fulfilled in the opening session of this Council, and to all intents and purposes in the Budget Session. Now, before paying the humble gratitude before the feet of His Highness the Maharaja, and before congratulating the Members of the Progressive Party for the realisation of their ardent desire, I hasten to borrow your own words to express the keen regret of this House as well as the people concerned at the sad circumstance which has prevented our permanent Diwan from gracing the chair on this occasion.

The regret is the more keener as we remember that it is soon after his return from tours which he undertook to several countries that the disease asserted itself. Nelliampathy, you all know, is a famous place for malarial fevers. Let us all pray for his speedy recovery from malaria or mums. I am credibly informed that he is not in bed and that he was moving about freely during the last week also. Now perhaps a word of apology is also needed, in seemingly attributing the quality of a non-official to you, Sir. No doubt, the seeming anomaly can be easily explained. We do not (Progressive Party, I mean) object to the Diwan-President or the President because we are not dissatisfied with the President or the Diwan as such, but

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all we know is that the contract is vested in one and the same person, who at times has to deal with conflicting interests. I need hardly multiply instances than quoting only one. I invite the attention of the House to the words of Mr. Narayana Ayyar himself wherein he has said that "my Departmental officers may think that they have not been properly treated, and they were not allowed proper encouragement in the development of their Departments." In another place he says "I was able to satisfy my Departmental Heads, that the provision made by me was ample and in some cases even to withdraw their demands." Of course, this sentence is in connection with the pruning knife that he has used in settling figures in the several Departments. A glaring instance of the difficulty of the Diwan-President was exemplified during the course of discussion of this House on a point of right in which the question of annual expenditure has already been entered into. Of course naturally the question arose, how the Head of the Department was entitled to enter into a contract before the budget was passed, and on what authority that contract was entered into. Of course in a moment the Department turned round and said 'Under the Diwan's order'. The question was under whose authority, and the answer was that the authority was the Diwan-President. Look at the anomalous position of the President who had to deal with executive matters in his executive capacity. Though you were a lower official, who had not to do anything with these fixing figures under discussion, I have said to all intents and purposes you have been treated as a non-official; not that I deny the position that you so richly obtained by the patient labour and honest work. Now I come to the next, i. e., the Finance Member's speech on the budget, and rule 48. Rule 48 says that a general discussion of the budget and also upon the special principle contained in it. With regard to the general discussion I am not going to repeat what was so ably, eloquently and exhaustively dealt with by several of the Hon'ble Members. Perhaps I may mention one or two facts. I come to the next scope of the discussion, that is, the principle, if any, involved in it. Truly, Sir, I have been reading the Finance Member's speech for some previous years, for the last year and this year, when introducing the new budget. That I have not seen any principle perhaps may be wrong. I do admit two principles, one of a negative nature and the other a positive one. The negative can be easily understood and easily explained. I shall give preference to that—a want of rule. No rule prevails, no principle had been laid down, but haphazard selections have been made with regard to the expenditure(increase of expenditure). That I am not speaking idly will be clear from the

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pages themselves, because after all what the Finance Member in so many places says is only the average for the last three years which has been taken. That is the basis. That is more or less mechanical. And I do say that he has not the exemplifications of any principle whatever. If he will permit me (I mean the Hon'ble Member for Finance), I will only say it is nothing more than the work of the comptometer, because there is no principle upon which selections are made. I said there is the positive principle also. With regard to the positive principle, it is not very difficult to find what it is. I am reading from the President's speech at the first Budget Session of the First Council. I wish to point out that considerable pains were taken to present the estimates in as reasonable and satisfactory a manner as possible. Principles have been all along kept in mind that I should not go to the Council with a deficit budget. If this is the only principle in framing the budget, I with great deference say that, the sooner that principle is left out, the better for all concerned. The criterion for fixing demands, fixing expenditure, is not whether the budget will result in a deficit budget or a surplus budget, but something greater and nobler. Yesterday I remember my Hon'ble friend, the Member for Jenmies, quoting from the Mysore Diwan's speech. No doubt there he has said about the interests of the village, but I wished he had read the previous portion of the speech. He says a little above how a ryot is to be made prosperous and happy. That is the system by which we should bind all our energy to its accomplishments. I wish the Diwan of Cochin has accepted and followed that rule, though not to the full extent, but at least approached it, as far as possible, regard being had to the resources at their disposal.

Now I come to the resources. Though this limitation has been placed, and a principle enunciated, even that principle has been invalidated to the great surprise of all persons concerned. I only invite the attention of the House to one instance. Last year the estimate of Customs was to give 8 lakhs of rupees. What was the result ? 15½ lakhs approximately. A wind-fall of nearly 7½ lakhs. I ask why not you at least keep that wind-fall alone on the budget this year and the surplus for schemes which are in anticipation—schemes which are to come when the harbour develops. Why not that 7½ lakhs of rupees be reserved for improvement and advancement, as mentioned by the Diwan of Mysore, of ryots, whose works give you the surplus ? I do not want to traverse the ground already traversed by the Hon'ble Members. I echo the sentiments and grievances that have been advocated before you. Perhaps

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I shall only add one which has not been adverted to by any Member in this House, and that is the scanty supply of water in Ernakulam. Though a large amount has been spent over it, and though it has been mentioned as a free gift to Ernakulam in the words of the Government, still, what we experience now is something more than horrible. You will hardly believe just five minutes ago when I went to the latrine there was no water, though there were two taps. (*Hear, hear.*) I do not know why because the prevailing rule is said to be the supply will be from 6 *a. m.* to 6 *p. m.* Of course it was a wonder to me why the outsiders did not speak of it, because the outsiders also have suffered this comfort which they did not suffer before.

Mr. A. K. Vengu Ayyar.—A special notice was given by the Mechanical Department of the temporary absence of water supply from 6 *p. m.* to 6 *a. m*

Dr. A. G. Menon.—Is it during the Budget Session so that we may also suffer?

Mr. P. Krishna Menon.—Let not my precious time be taken up. Now I do not want to expatiate, I will have my turn. I have only to say, if these allegations and the grievances of the people that have been accumulating from year to year are true, I can only echo the sentiment of the poet when he says "Alas! Poor country, when shalt thou see thy wholesome days?"

At this stage the House rose for lunch it being 2 p. m. and re-assembled at 3 p. m.

Mr. A. S. Harihara Ayyar.—Sir, my Hon'ble colleagues have dealt with almost all the aspects of the future development of the State on points of jurisprudence. But I should just like to bring a few words in five minutes how the same may be achieved. First our educational policy ought to be rectified. Because we see in the United States and in France for every thousand head of population, United States spend Rs. 1,640, i e., more than a rupee per head of population and in France Rs. 940 are being spent. All this for agricultural education alone, and the policy of the United States is literary education as is being blended with agriculture. They give very little importance to literary education. And the proof of the uselessness of literary education is well with us. The present teachers, after completing their B. A. course, are fit only for Government employment or to make fellows of their own type, that is, to teach their own subjects. And soon after their period is over, they go out as pensiondars. When they go to their houses, they are unable to work out their own means of livelihood. In the same way, after they retire from Government offices, no Government officer would pull on without the pension he gets. So the utter uselessness of the present system of education is self-evident.

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At present we spend only a lakh and odd rupees in agricultural education. And in the present Special Finance Committee report they are not prepared to spend anything on the development of agriculture. On the other hand, they say "Why, in British India, they spend so much, we can easily copy their experience". But, however much one may copy, one may never be able to do it for oneself unless he himself experiments over the affair. So the State will have to experiment itself, if the citizens of the State have to improve on agriculture. Then the facts and figures. It has been said that the present outturn of paddy is just sufficient to meet the requirements of the State for five months, and it is an admitted fact, so far as agriculturists and landlords are concerned, that any improvement in reclamation in future years is a failure. That is, our forefathers have reclaimed all available good areas, and the present available areas are only *Parambas*, which though may be converted at high costs, since we see that the rains are always decreasing, and seeing the present course of events of the present year and seeing the past years also, reclamation would be a failure. Even in തിരുവതിര ഞാറ്റുവേല we have no rains. Chittur Taluk, which happens to be one of the best producing paddy fields, even there all *pottas*, i. e., single crop lands, may not get *vithu* and *velly*, so much so the ryots may have to pay the *pattom* out of the double crop land, to which the single crop land has been linked. But if agriculture is being improved, and it must also be improved because we see there are expert opinions that the yield may be increased to double or treble the times. Experiments have been made in Coimbatore Agricultural Farm, and they successfully have increased the yield from 1,500 up to 5,000 pounds per acre. That is in common parlance from 100 to 300 *paras* of paddy in a single crop. The same is also seen in one of the issues of the Modern Review for 1927 that Italy and Spain, some fifty years ago, they were cultivating the areas in paddy without profits. So much so, the areas once decreased to fifty per cent. But afterwards, scientific methods of cultivation were introduced, and their present yields have trebled itself. When I carefully watched those figures, I was rest assured as a practical man that we can also do the same. Then I myself did the same last year in my own estate. With 10 *Edangalis* of paddy, I was able to get 70 *paras* of paddy by single planting in one crop by properly ploughing and manuring. But I had to meet with one difficulty The seedlings were raised in Karkadagam, and they were transplanted towards the beginning of Chingam and they began to bring out ears in Kanni. It was rather too early. It had not time to ripe, and all tillers did not come forth. So much so, all ears that

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came out in Kanni did not set, and fortunately another set of tillers came and they set and blossomed. At any rate, we got the normal yield. Even in that normal yield we got so much of paddy. Even this year I asked my ryots to try the same sort of paddy G. E. B. 24 and C. O. 1, I got from Coimbatore Farm. But with the last year's so-called failure, i. e., as they brought out ears in Kanni, the ryots are afraid. Such experiments can be done only by Government. We see how shy my agriculturists are in this respect, and I myself am shy, even though I succeeded in part last year. But with all that, as a sort of demonstration and piece of experiment, I still try the same. Under 'Agriculturai' head, our State has set apart only a lakh and odd rupees. But under the heading of 'Education' we have got 13 lakhs. If agriculture is to be linked with literary education, then we have sufficient funds, 13 lakhs and odd rupees for 10 lakhs of population. The literary career is to be reduced a little and agriculture increased. So much for agriculture. Then on *the question of 'Forests'*. Speaking on the question of forests and plantations, plantation pays more than the present paddy cultivation. Under the present mode of paddy cultivation we get at the most only 100 rupees per acre on best Chittur taluk paddy acres. Not in all cases, but only maximum. But when we take into consideration plantation, the yield per acre, rubber, tea, coffee and other things, the minimum yield per acre would be 200 to 300 pounds and they yield as far as 700 pounds per acre. Valuing even at a minimum price of eight annas, the income is large. On the other hand, the quit rent that is being charged on every acre of plantation is only Rs. 2. Our land revenue on *pandaravaka* lands is heavy. We are charged more than 10 rupees for double crop lands. I believe it will come to Rs. 11-4-0 in Chittur taluk. As regards conveniences, Government give to planters more, and the conveniences that are being offered to the land revenue paying citizens of the paddy cultivation are very little. Just to draw the attention of the House on that point, I shall refer to one point. Out of Nelliampathi coffee estate our State gets a revenue of Rs. 7,000 and odd; for the maintenance of one ghat road alone the D. P.W. spends Rs. 3,940, that is, much in excess of 50 per cent for the roads alone. We shall take into consideration what is being spent in the Chittur taluk under the same head. The land revenue may come over 3 lakhs of rupees. But the total that is being spent on roads is only Rs. 31,000. So in one case it is more than fifty per cent, in another it does not come to 10 per cent. Such is the inequality in the distribution of funds. Again another point. Now Nelliampathies are offered on lease.

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Though public invitations were made to take up on lease all lands in Nelliampathies, both among Cochinites and foreignors no Cochinite has offered to take up the same on lease. The mere reason is that our State has not been careful enough to educate its children on proper lines. The fact is everybody is anxious to acquire as much money as he can either by foul or by fair means. (*Laughter.*) When such is the case, if one can really acquire assets by honest means, I do not think that anybody would be shy with his capital. On practical figures I shall prove as follows:—Now Nelliampathies are being offered at Rs. 35 per acre, and though it was offered as long ago as 1101, and 1, 2, 3, we have already passed three years, our Darbar is spending Rs. 55,000 over the ghat road. If a well-metalled road is being made, a single tree cut from that one acre will fetch more than this 35 rupees. Then, am I not justified when I say that the Department sells their heritage for a mess of pottage? I cannot express my sentiment in any other words. I myself have gone to Nelliampathies. Any tree cut from there would fetch more than Rs. 35. Then, what is the fun of leasing at Rs. 35 per acre? At the same time it has not been said in the Press Communique or in any other communications that were being printed in the Government Gazette about the prospects of tea. The Government would as well have said "This would be the yield per acre. These are the prospective helps that the Government offers. Cochinites are welcome for that, and the Darbar will also in a way help them, if helps are so necessary". Then I think many would have come forward. Am I to take it that the Forest Department and the Government are aware or not of the fact that they do one thing with the planters and another thing with the children of the soil? Because in leasing out the local areas in Chittur and Talappalli taluks and in all other places, they first cut down the timber or sell it for auction, and then lease out the land. In Nelliampathies they sell outright with forest growth. The Government does know the fact that timber will fetch some revenue. How is it that idea is gone? Where is that idea buried, when the same is leased to foreigners, I mean European planters? Since we see the F. M. S., Singapore and Ceylon Governments do charge an *export duty* on every pound of article that is being produced, why not our Government do the same? I once brought to your notice that 7 thousand and odd rupees is the quit rent for Nelliampathi coffee estate. Since Rs. 2 is the quit rent rate per acre, it works to 3,600 acres. And on an average yield of 200 pounds per acre the total export duty at half an anna may exceed Rs. 20,000. And expenses on ghat roads may very well be wiped

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off without disturbing the head 'Land Revenue'. I must refer to the present irrigational policy that is adopted in the Chittur taluk. Since it is the D. P. W. that manages the irrigation system, no Government officer has any responsibility, much more so the D. P. W. (*Hear, hear.*) Because even the landlord does not at all fear when it does not rain or when there is no water available as the ryots do. The ryots alone are feeling very highly. This has been the case in past many years, and especially this year we had good showers towards the 1st of Medam, and for 45 days to come we had no showers whatsoever. The 1st of Medam showers brought floods, and our stream was full. Then the authorities had not repaired the canals. How can water be diverted? As the water comes into the system, the authorities are not ready with their silt clearance. The best way of averting the danger would be that beams should be taken to all canals, that is, bed plate, to know what ought to be the depth to which the silt is to be cleared from every portion. This taken, responsible cultivators over that area (say, by half a mile or a mile) should be given charge of all those portions for silt clearance. As the water is being diverted in rotation, through canals they may be conveniently cleared. When Nellapully canal is being worked, generally Pothady and Chandanapuram are empty and the two latter may be repaired. So also when water are diverted through the latter two, the first may be rapai red, so on. The ryots will take care to the best of their interests how to repair the same, and the same may also be done with less of cost. Now repairs are being made in namesake. The Chief Engineer seldom finds time though called on for inspection or for check-measurement. Some subordinates go to the locality. Assistant Engineers often check from their own houses and the whole thing goes to dogs.

President.—The time is up.

Mr. A. S. Harihara Ayyar.—Then with regard to the monopoly plantations, I have been watching in Chittur taluk that the thumbal tree, that is, ebony, which is a very valuable species of timber, and which, I understand, fetches more than Rs. 60 per candy, I do not know the attitude of the Government, when they simply cut and remove all these trees. Even the saplings are removed. It was only when I saw the same being removed that I questioned some of them. Then I came to understand the importance of the tree. It is ebony tree. So instead of allowing to plant the valuable species (ebony trees), now they have destroyed even the seeds. So also the monopoly trees of teak and rosewood. Beginning from myself

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to every other, we have destroyed all our saplings from our estate. Why should we cultivate teak, over which we have no interest? Within the bounds of law we can destroy when they have not attained 4 inches in girth-measurement. We won't allow them to grow, because within strict bounds of law we remove everything. And in Trichur Tekkinkad, which owns its name to the presence of teak, still shows that such areas are well fit for cultivation, as we see in Palapilly teak cultivation. So also in Chittur taluk. That is also a very good place for teak cultivation. The other day when I wanted for medicinal purpose some *tekkin kozhinthu* I had to walk all the way (more than 2 miles) to reserve forests to get some. But in the neighbouring British parts we have teak everywhere. What is the good of such administrative policy? (*Laughter.*) I would suggest the monopoly abolished.

Mr. I. E. Ambooken.—We have now passed three full years since the administration of the State was carried on with this Council, a new institution which has given the opportunity for the Government to know the wishes and grievances of the people. Therefore, it will be necessary to see whether any good result has been effected out of this new change for the betterment of the people at large. To this, I am sorry to say, that I am of opinion that we have not achieved any considerable improvement in any direction. Several reasons may be attributed to this unhappy result. Anyhow, much is due to the infancy of this Council, and so in after years, let us hope that matters will improve, so that a hearty co-operation and good-will and better understanding between the Government and the people will begin to follow.

Coming to the budget, I wish to place a few remarks on some of the Departments for the kind consideration of this House. Let us first take the Agriculture and Panchayat Department. This is a Department which can serve the tax-payer in the whole rural areas in the State with a real benefit than any other Department. Agriculture being the mainstay of the people of Cochin, and as the paddy grown in this country is sufficient only for five months, one cannot but admit that our method of cultivation has to be improved to a considerable extent. It is a serious matter for consideration that many of the valuable articles of manure produces of our country, such as fish and fish manures of different sorts, lime, bones, etc., are exported outside in large quantities to distant places. This is doing a double harm to our land and somehow or other this should be put a stop to, so that our people may make use of it with great advantage. Manure depots should be opened in all the villages, and

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the ryots should be given the necessary instruction and facilities for the use of manure and new methods in cultivation. The improvement of our country chiefly depends upon the improvement of the Panchayats, which alone can serve the major part of the State in their primary needs. I fully agree with the Special Finance Committee in recommending for the separation of the Panchayats and bringing this under a separate officer. But I have an idea that a common united institution of all the Panchayats, such as the S. M. P. assembly in Travancore, may be made here, and the Government Head of the Department shall have an advisory body having members selected from among the general assembly of Panchayats. It is a matter of surprise to me that the Special Finance Committee has recommended to limit its expenditure to one and a half lakhs of rupees. This can never be done, as this is a developing Department, which has not reached its youth at present. The tax qualification of Rs. 25 to become a Panchayatdar should be reduced. A Panchayat Manual or Code containing all necessary rules for its constitution and management of its affairs should be introduced. Civil powers should be introduced in all the Panchayats. Necessary staff for the close supervision and inspection of Panchayats should be appointed. These are some of the improvements to be made for the better working of these institutions.

Then I come to the Education Department. It is an admitted fact that the policy of the Government is to help the private institutions to encourage them as far as possible, so that the burden of the Government may be reduced accordingly. But now this policy is practised in the reverse, and consequently several difficulties are experienced by the authorities of aided schools. For instance, the rules regarding the maximum strength and the introduction of the half-time system, &c., may be quoted. It is a matter for surprise that these rules are not followed strictly in the case of Government schools, at least to convince that they are good rules. In the case of an aided school, half the grant is held over of a class if there is a deficiency of even one in the minimum strength of 30. But if it is in a Sirkar School, no one is held responsible for this. As to the half-time system, I can only say that this is a great impediment in the way of progress in primary education. Several complaints have been made by guardians of children, as well as by the managers of schools and teachers. Representations have been made by the Association of managers and the teachers alike. The Travancore Government has abandoned this system after a long experiment. In spite of all this, our Government is still compelling it more and more, without caring for its evils.

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As a result of this new system, a teacher is asked to teach a class of 90 little children of an average age of five or six. Is this practicable? It is high time that this sort of bad policies to be done away with. It is very strange to me that the Special Finance Committee has recommended in their report for a slight reduction in grant to aided schools in the Primary Department, and that no recommendation is made to enhance the pay of the primary school teachers. Therefore, I request the Government and this House to reconsider these very important questions before they come to any conclusion.

With regard to the Land Revenue Department, I have pointed out that the ryots are put to great difficulties owing to the rules regarding the quarrying of stones, bricks, &c., and also on account of the unnecessary inspection of survey stones by the village officers. In this connection, I beg to bring to the notice of the Government that a reorganisation of the village establishment is urgently needed, and that it should be a practice that all village officers should be transferred after having been posted in one place for a period of 2 years and not more.

With regard to our P. W. D., I have to point out that the attention paid by the Department in the matter of opening new roads in the villages is quite inadequate, and in some cases, the Department is not doing strictly in accordance of the orders of the Government. For instance, I may quote that in the case of a road from Mala to Adoor, the Diwan passed an order to do it in the year 1103, as a result of continued representations by the people of the localities. But it seems that nothing has been done, except that some preliminary survey and an allotment of Rs. 5,000 allotted in the last year's budget. If matters are going at this speed, I do not know when a work like this will be completed. Therefore, I request the Government to pay more attention in the matter of improving the means of communications all over the State, instead of spending huge sums upon buildings and less urgent items, so that the general conditions of our people may be improved.

In conclusion, I wish to point out that it is rather cruel on the part of the Government that the pay of the menials in the Government service is not enhanced till this time. The cry of the people in this respect has been kept back by appointing a Special Finance Committee and that also is over. Therefore, without giving room for further delay, steps may be taken to redress this terrible grievance. This only will reduce corruption that really exists in several Departments. For the increase in expense for this sort of inevitable items no additional taxation is necessary. If at all there is no other source, why

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not the Government find out new sources, such as the introduction of the income-tax on non-agricultural income ?

Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.—It is one of the tragedies of life that our achievements often fall short of our expectations. That is a fairly universal experience, whether in the life of an individual or of an institution. If the achievement of the Cochin Legislative Council during the past years has not come up to the expectations which were entertained of it, I am not at all surprised. It is a disappointment shared by this side of the House almost as equally as, if not more than, the Members on the other side If any blame is to be apportioned at all, it seems to my mind that the majority side of the House cannot disown its legitimate share.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—We have no responsibility.

Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.—But is there room for such pessimism and despair ? I do not think so. Because every institution has an infantile stage, during which it has to pass through distempers of various kinds, before it emerges into a period of sturdy growth. But were I to probe into the causes of the dwarfed achievements of the Legislative Council during the past triennium, I would say that the one predominant feature that stands out in bold relief is a lack of recognition of the fact that we are common builders of a noble edifice. Non-official Members on their side regarded the official Members, perhaps rightly,as hewers of wood and drawers of water,while their own function by common consent was taken to be that of rigid taskmasters laying their lashes blindly on all. They hardly took us into their confidence and conceived that they were the only builders. Some of the criticisms had been embittered with personal reflections upon officials not conducive to the maintenance of an atmosphere of mutual harmony. For instance the Hon'ble Member for Chittur has been harping on one string, in season and out of season, about the action taken by me on certain remarks made by a Member in the visitor's book of a dispensary. The Hon'ble Member had hardly stood up to speak upon the subject of the Medical Department without making a reference to this subject on occasions on which it was hardly relevant for me to retaliate. He has preferred to give left-handed strokes on occasions which were not relevant, indulging in language which was rather irritating and offensive. As the Hon'ble Member has introduced the subject again into this new Council, I shall not allow those remarks to go unchallenged. Sir, those ill-starred remarks made in the visitor's book seem to find no rest. They were dislodged from their original place of deposit and subsequently found a humble resting place

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in the published Proceedings of the Legislative Council. From there also they stand officially expunged. But an officious sponsor keeps fitfully raking it up from the limbo of oblivion to which they had been rightly relegated. Were I given a legitimate opportunity, I would have convinced the House that the objectionable nature of those remarks was such that my action was more than justified. Sir, there is one step and only one to smooth matters away, and if that step is not taken, my action will continue to hold the field. All that I have got to say is that I know to keep my house in order, and I will not allow any intruder to ride roughshod into its sacred precincts.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—But the house is ours.

Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.—If the Hon'ble Member will not condescend to take that one step to smooth matters, I would only beg of him to let the dead past be burried and forgotten and on its tomb-stone be inscribed the letters R. I. P. *Requiescat in pace* rest in peace.

Dr. A. G. Menon.—Cancel the general order issued against the visitors. There is a general order not to show the book to the visitors.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—Let that be written on the tomb-stone.

Dr. A. G. Menon.—The general order is still there.

Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.—There is only one and only one step to save himself. Passing on to other observations of the budget under discussion, the outstanding note of dissent is in regard to the General Hospital, Ernakulam. Sir, I feel like Daniel before the den of lions when I speak of the budget of the General Hospital, as the refrain of this institution being pampered by Government, which was the slogan song of some Members in the last Council, is taken up at the early dawn of this Council also. The General Hospital, Sir, is the premier Hospital of the State, which in point of magnitude and quality of its work stands favourable comparison with similar institutions of Mysore and Travancore. And yet the money spent on it is by far less than what is being spent on those institutions in Mysore and Travancore.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—The sizes of the States?

Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.—The endeavour is to make it as efficient as possible within the limits of the resources of the State and to make it so that it may be an asylum of healing to which the people in the State may look up and may resort to with confidence. To say that ambitions schemes have been launched in the way of construction of buildings and acquisition of property is not an accurate statement of fact.

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What has been done is only to meet the absolute necessities of the institution according to modern methods of hospital management. A building is being constructed for the isolation of patients, suffering from infectious fevers, dysentery and such other diseases, who cannot be kept together with the patients in the general wards of the hospital. Then there is another building for the nurses who are doing duty night and day, for whom accommodation has to be provided, and so land has been acquired for the location of this building and not more.

To say again, as has been remarked by one Member, that half the number of the people who resort to the Hospital are non-Cochinites is also a gross exaggeration. Perhaps 2 to 5 % of the people are non-Cochinites. Situated as we are and surrounded by the Travancore State within a distance of 3 to 6 miles all round, is it any wonder that they come to our hospital for treatment? Further, on the northern side of Travancore there is no institution with much in-patient accommodation and, therefore, some people resort to this hospital. But they form a small fraction of the large number of people who resort to the General Hospital.

Leaving the General Hospital I shall now pass on to another remark which has been made, that mofussil institutions are ignored or neglected. Sir, I admit that there is certainly justification for a remark of that kind but not to that exaggerated degree. To say that they are ignored or neglected is only a figure of speech. But they are not favoured on such a scale as the larger institutions are. In the first place, medical and surgical treatment on western lines of the present day has become so elaborate, complicated and specialized. Secondly, hospital management also has become so complex that the State cannot afford to supply on the scale which we are able to give to the larger institutions. Now, that principle has also been accepted by the British Government, so that they are concentrating their energies only on large Taluk Headquarter Hospitals while smaller hospitals are allowed just what is absolutely necessary to give medical relief in the area in which they are situated. I accept, and I think the Government also have accepted, the necessity to serve these mofussil hospitals in a more liberal manner than we have been doing in the past. But I can assure you that, whether in the supply of medicines or other hospital necessaries, year by year we have been increasingly fulfilling their demands.

Then an incident which has been quoted by one Member that saline infusion apparatus was wanting in a hospital, and hence a cholera patient succumbed is, I think, a hyperbole, which

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a medical man sometimes indulges in as an excuse for the loss of his case.

Mr. Thomas Manjuran.—I am sory I never said the patient succumbed. I said an instrument vitally useful for the modern treatment of cholera did not exist. That is the allegation. I never said the patient died on that account.

Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.—Saline infusion apparatus is a contrivance which every medical man of sufficient resourcefulness can manage to have within a few minutes by spending a few annas.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—Why do you keep such non-resourceful men?

Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.—All the people we have are resourceful in their own way. The question of medical relief in villages has also been adverted to by several Hon'ble Members. As this Council is aware, we have been trying to extend medical relief by various devices. We found that the establishment of ordinary dispensaries is so costly and beyond the resources of the State that a system of State-aided dispensaries was started last year, and several such dispensaries have been working for the year, and in this budget, as we know, there are two proposed to be opened this year. It is in that way alone that we are able to extend medical relief, but establishment of dispensaries in every village is almost out of the question. Look at the Malabar District! We are very much better off than that District in the service of medical relief. Either hospitals or dispensaries—we have a far far larger number than obtains in many of the Districts of the Madras Presidency. But the question of medical relief is certainly engaging the attention of the Government, and every effort will be made as funds and resources are available to extend this most important branch of the State administration.

Sanitation is a subject which has been just briefly touched here and there by the Members. But one Member proposed that it is highly desirable to have a separate Sanitary Department under an experienced doctor with sanitary education and experience. I entirely endorse that suggestion. I should think that expenditure on sanitation ought to be one of, if not the foremost charges (*hear, hear*) of hospital expenditure. It has been mentioned that sanitation in rural areas may be left alone, while that of the towns is of more serious consideration. No. I say that it is there that the basis of sanitation should begin, for there is no system of rural reconstruction of villages without primarily attending to their sanitary condition. When I say sanitary condition, you may be carried away with the idea that

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it is sweeping of streets and other arrangements. No. In the villages there are the ravages of various diseases like typhoid fever, dysentery, etc., which are problems which ought to engage the attention of a sanitarian to prevent that grave calamity to which allusion was made by one of the Hon'ble Members of this House. The death-rate among the people in the villages is certainly a larger proportion than what obtains in other civilized countries. So a well organised Health Department is an item of very necessary improvement, and I believe Government will at no distant date give the serious consideration which the subject deserves. (*Hear, hear.*) Then I forgot to tell you one thing. At the instance of the Government I have formulated a skeleton scheme of sanitary relief in rural areas, which is still engaging the attention of Government. No orders have been passed as yet.

Mr. C. J. Mathew.—Does it amount to an assurance that a Sanitary Department will soon be opened?

Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.—No assurance at all.

Dr. A. G. Menon.—May I take it as his personal view or the Government's view that early steps will be taken?

Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.—Steps have already been taken. I have already told you that. At the instance of the Government, myself and the Diwan Peishkar have drawn up a scheme of rural sanitation and submitted it to the Government, which is now with the Government.

Rao Bahadur Mr. John Kuriyan.—Sir, I rise to reply to the observations that have been made by the Hon'ble Members here. I have taken very detailed notes regarding everything that they have said here relating to my Department, and I can assure them that their suggestions will be considered by me, and I shall leave them on record to be dealt with by the permanent Chief Engineer when he returns.

I shall only make a few general remarks. Practically every Member, I think, who has spoken has spoken about irrigation. I am personally very much interested in irrigation. You will see that a very large sum has been allotted for irrigation in the coming year. It was rather unexpected. I did not expect that the Government would ultimately be able to provide this large sum. That is one of the reasons why the amount is left almost as a lump sum for irrigation. I think I shall have further opportunities of speaking about this irrigation question, and, therefore, I do not now enter into further details of it. I think you have understood one thing. As they say in the legal enactment on the subject the word "irrigation" includes "drainage". I think this definition is particularly applicable here. Many of our

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lands are really in need of drainage; some of the "irrigation" schemes that we have in hand are really drainage schemes, so that it is only under such a definition that they can be called "irrigation" schemes. Only one Member, I think the Member for Antikkad, referred to the subject of *Kole* lands. He is very much misinformed of the state of *Kole* lands. He thinks *Kole* lands are suffering. In 1102 and 1103 *Kole* lands got on very well. The system of storing water in the *mundakam* and *Kuttadan* lands has been a great success. We have succeeded in a measure to solve the *Kole* problem, and if he still thinks that the lands are still suffering,——

Mr. C. V. Kuriyan.—It was because of proper monsoons that the *Kole* cultivation was successful.

Rao Bahadur Mr. John Kuriyan.—Not altogether on account of that. The system of storage is a sort of ideal solution of that problem. When I read about the problem in the papers before I came to Cochin, I thought that some such thing would do, and I was glad when I came here to see that that solution was recommended by the Kole Committee and has been adopted.

Then I come to the question of roads. Now, anybody going on a road can say the road is bad. The Vaniampara road is now bad. I quite agree. But I wish Hon'ble Members will also remember how much the traffic on that road has increased during the last five years. I was making enquiries. There is a large number of buses, lorries and very heavy carts going on the road. Also the soil on that road is not an ideal one for roads. A large portion of the road is very low. Sub-soil water is too near the surface. The consequence is the bed on which the metal rests is soaked in the rains and it gives way. What is wanted is a very thick layer on the bed, or sub-soil drainage. Both are costly expedients. We have to spend much in the shape of material. Well, if a little more allotment is made, we can make it a tolerably good road. But what I want to say is that the remark was made regarding the road as it exists at the present time when the road is at its worst. It was not in so bad a condition always. After the initial rains, we shall metal it well. It was better than it is now, and it will be better and nearly in good order in another month.

Dr. A. G. Menon.—For the past six months it was so, Sir. That much I can tell you.

Rao Bahadur Mr. John Kuriyan.—Well, I came from Travancore. Compared with the roads in Travancore, you may take my word that the roads in Cochin will quite compare favourably.

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Mr. Thomas Manjuran—Sir, they do differ

Rao Bahadur Mr. John Kuriyan.—I shall tell you the disadvantages that the Cochin roads have, then perhaps you will understand.

Dr. A. G. Menon.—Then you admit it is worse than those in Travancore. When you say you will explain the disadvantages, the inference is that they are bad when compared with those in Travancore.

Rao Bahadur Mr. John Kuriyan.—No. I said, considering all the circumstances, the roads in the two States will bear comparison with each other. You cannot say one is very bad and the other very good.

Mr. C. Barton Wright.—I say, Travancore roads are excellent.

Rao Bahadur Mr. John Kuriyan.—I was for long responsible for the repair of the roads in the two divisions nearest Cochin and so it is a compliment to me. (*Laughter.*) But it was not due to any cleverness of mine or anything of the kind. The soil in the northern part of Travancore from about Kottarakara northwards is lovely gravel soil, an ideal one for making roads. I did not use nearly so much metal in Travancore as is used here. There on the roads you can see heaps and heaps of metal which remain on the margins of the roads without any use. Often there is no necessity for using it. Gravel is an excellent soil ; it will let the water through, and presents a fairly hard surface; it is elastic and will stand shocks. It is a lovely soil for roads. Trichur soil is very much better for cultivation, but not for making roads.

Dr. A. G. Menon.—So the inference is that our roads are bad.

Rao Bahadur Mr. John Kuriyan.—No, no. I am telling you the natural conditi ons affecting the roads. Here we have to put much more of broken granite.

Mr. Thomas Manjuran.—Are those traps on the roads necessary? To motorists it looks as if you are inviting the cars to break their springs. I have broken my springs more than once on account of this, though it was driven at 15 miles speed.

Rao Bahadur Mr. John Kuriyan.—Well, I was referring to the very large quantity of granite. It is very costly. One Member pointed out to me that the cost is Rs. 175 to 800 per mile. It was quite true. On the other side of the boundary, in Travancore, the cost is very much less because of this gravel soil. Another thing is some roads here are narrow. There we have a width of 40 feet of land for a road. Here in many places it is

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only 20 feet and we collect those materials on the road where the total P. W. D. land is only 20 feet and we collect those materials on the trafficable part of the roads. What is the result? The trafficable part of the Vaniampara road is only 12 feet and 5 or 6 feet is taken by these heaps of metal. The traffic goes on the remaining portion, and by the time the metal is put, half the road is gone to ruin. Now, you were asking questions why this metal is collected on the sides of the roads.

Mr. A.B. Salem.—In the Special Finance Committee there was discussion regarding this, and I think there is provision made for collection of metal outside the roads.

Rao Bahadur Mr. John Kuriyan.—I am coming to that. Now this was one of the things that struck me not only from the standpoint of the traveller but from the standpoint of the road maintenance. When I spoke to people here about it, the contractors, Section Superintendents, Overseer, Assistant Engineer, and others, I found all had become quite callous about it. I know that the Hon'ble Member, Mr. Ikkanda Wariar, was again and again asking about it. The fact is people have become quite callous about it. The example of the P. W. D. was being copied by Municipalities. In the Trichur Municipality you can see a man going on breaking granite, sitting nearly in the middle of the road as if it was his property. I am afraid that many of our people, I mean the contractors, etc., think that the road is their property, and the object of the road is for them to work on and not for the public to travel on. That impression has to be removed; it will take some time. I have not issued circulars. But I talked about this several times to our people, but, you see they have become quite callous about it. It will take some time to educate them. There are also difficulties. You will find an allotment of Rs. 2,000 has been made in the budget for metal tables—(not metal tablets as it is printed in the budget)—I am thinking of how exactly to make them ; I am studying the matter with the Assistant Engineers how to spend that allotment. We will do this for this one year with Rs. 2,000 and then I propose to ask for 20,000 rupees if we know how to do it well. It is quite worth while to do it, for we can remove this nuisance from the road altogether, and it will be very much better for the road. Well, that is a subject on which I have worked for the last 25 or 30 years, and I have adopted different devices in different places. And then it wants education even down to the cooly, who now thinks that the road is his property. We must teach him that the road belongs to the man who uses it and not to the man who repairs it.

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Then somebody wanted to know why "special renewals" were made. Special renewals—I think that is an excellent system because the maintenance allotment of the road is about the minimum that is wanted, as found sufficient 5 years ago, but now the traffic is increasing, and to rectify defect we observe on the road we do special renewals, and the maintenance figure is revised every 5 years. Now as regards this Vaniampara road, you see, the Member for the Planters worked out the figures of the maintenance estimate and showed that it is a very thin layer of metal that we can lay for these 600 or 800 rupees, on the Vaniampara road. The method used by us for consolidation is good except for the fact that we do not use heavier steam rollers. The Motor roller is of no use. The one steam roller we have is very light. It is not more than 5 or 6 tons. In Travancore they use heavy rollers up to 15 tons. They not only work much more quickly but also more efficiently. Our steam roller is now working on Vaniampara road, but it is very very slow. My fear is that, before it can roll all the metal, rains might cease. That will make things very costly.

Another interesting thing was said—it was a revelation to me. One Member wanted roads in the sandy soil of coastal tracts and islands. Well, we are experimenting upon such roads. The Travancore Government is making a road from Alleppey to Arukkutti. We are trying to join Pallivirutti with Arukkutti. It is a comparatively new idea. At first in these sandy districts people wanted to make an embankment with a bed of clay on top for the metal. The cost appeared to be very heavy. Now, with a small layer of laterite and a little layer on the top of it of gravel, we can make a pucca road and we are making such a road. Now I believe, if we make one mile of road in Cranganur, buses will be running in that one mile immediately. Same is the case in many other places where buses are not used now. Now we find we can make roads of that sort comparatively cheaply and quickly. and we shall do so. But you see people got on in the sandy roads in this fashion for a long time, and it is only when buses came that we thought of all this.

Then, Sir, Mr. Barton Wright, Member for Planters, wanted to know something about Nelliampathi road. That is one of the principal works on which I have been engaged after I took charge. I shall explain very briefly what happened. When I came, sanction to an estimate of Rs. 55,000 had been made out of which Rs. 25,000 were allotted in 1103. I surrendered Rs. 14,000 out of this and only Rs. 11,000 stands in the revised budget, and that I promised to spend before the end of Karkadagam. I am sorry to say that even that Rs. 11,000

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will not be spent up, and I have to surrender another 4 or 5 thousand. The reason for this is, when I came and looked at it, there was an estimate made for 3½ miles of road, without seeing if the line can be traced to the top. I wished to see if it could be, and so I started to see if it will go up to the top. I came back from the top and again went up and down half a dozen times, and I have got the trace of a road from the bottom to the top. There is only one difficult portion. It is a steep rocky bit. The upper portion comes from here (it was demonstrated), and there is one steep rock like this (again demonstrated). We cannot get across the rock. We must devise some way of getting across. As the Irishman said, "There are many ways of drowning a dog other than shooting it." But I have not been able to go near the steep portion yet. Youngsters are tracing it from both sides. It is too full of thorns and shrubs to permit me to go on it. They will make it fit for me to go on it very soon, and then I shall be able to give the Government a very clear account of this difficult rocky bit. The rest of the road is 10 miles, all of which has been traced. For a length of 2½ miles from the bottom, 2 feet of the sloping ground has been cut into the solid and spread so as to give a 4 ft. path on which man can freely walk. Before this one could not go half a mile in half a day. Now I can go 2½ miles in an hour. In fact the permanent Diwan walked up and down this distance and he was convinced that this alignment was the best line possible and he asked me to go ahead. I selected two portions of this 2½ miles of road each 100 feet long and I cut down the earth and made the road 16 feet wide for the two 100 feet length, and now all our people know how to make the road. We will be able to put in 30 more days' work; still I won't be able to work up the whole budget allotment but only half of it.

Then Mr. Barton Wright said we are very chary about allotment and all that. Out of Rs. 25,000 allotted, only 5 or 6 thousand will be spent. We have provided 25 thousand for next year. Mr. Barton Wright says, and I think several people say, this won't do. They want us to go on spending more money. There is another side of the question. There are 10,000 acres of land there out of which 5,000 acres is virgin forest. We wanted somebody to take the land. In 1926 the Diwan notified that this land is available. But there was no response.

Mr. C. Barton Wright.—But the making of this road was then only a promise.

Rao Bahadur Mr. John Kuriyan.—As I said, there was

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no response, and then the permanent Diwan said that they should be made to understand that we are making a road and action should be taken. Now the whole road is almost traced. Earth work will be over by the end of Chingam on this 2½ miles road. Then we would advertise, and if there is a good response from the people to take up the land, we will certainly go on further, if there is any reasonable prospect of the land being taken. One of the Members, I think Mr. Harihara Ayyar, wanted to educate our youngsters and make them learn tea cultivation. That is a very roundabout process. First of all Mr. Matthai does not know tea cultivation. He cannot teach it nor has he got teachers to do it. The best way will be to go to the hills in Travancore where they make heaps of money by working up tea estates. Mr. Anantapadmanabha Ayyar can confirm my words. Personally I don't mind Europeans cultivating tea on these hills. I would prefer to see the enterprising people of Cochin taking up tea cultivation. Government will very soon advertise the sale of these lands, and if there is a good response, the road will be done. These are the general remarks that I have got to make.

Mr. A. Eachara Menon referred to the construction of the Korayar Bridge. There is not much traffic there to justify making a bridge. A causeway will be sufficient.

Dr. A.G. Menon.—The people will be isolated for months together.

Rao Bahadur Mr. John Kuriyan.—If I make a causeway, it will be sufficient. That is the latest idea.

Mr. V. V. Anantapadmanabha Ayyar referred to one bridge. I looked at it, and I think that is not something very urgent.

Mr. V. V. Anantapadmanabha Ayyar.—It became urgent 20 years ago.

Rao Bahadur Mr. John Kuriyan.—I think it is more a matter for action for the Panchayat.

I understand very well about the Trikkur Bridge over the Manali River. I believe a big bridge across Manali is a scheme of tremendous expenditure, and all for serving some 100 or 200 houses on the side of the forest. The Railway authorities have already put up a costly bridge across the river, and I think the expenditure for a bridge higher up is not justified. Personally I cannot hold much hope to the Hon'ble Member for that bridge. When we have diversion of the Manali, perhaps it will be possible to do something and it is the most hopeful line to think of.

Mr. A. B. Salem referred to the taxation of sea-going vessels. You do not understand the situation.

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Mr. A. B. Salem.—I do not want an explanation.

Mr. C. A. Kunjunni Raja.—What about the estimate in the B. Schedule?

Rao Bahadur Mr. John Kuriyan.—There is generally no provision without an estimate. But it is not always sanctioned when the budget is made. We have an estimate. The estimate for this work is going up and down. One estimate was for Rs. 45,000. I want to reduce it to Rs. 35,000 or Rs. 30,000. I am trying to do that.

Mr. C. J. Mathew.—I suggested a road from Pariyaram to Meloor which is half completed.

Mr. I. E. Ambooken.—Already in the last budget, provision was made for it. What about that?

Rao Bahadur Mr. John Kuriyan.—Nobody has swallowed it (*laughter*). Do not think that it is lost.

Mr. A. K. Vengu Ayyar.—Sir, I would like to say only a few words by way of general remarks.

So many points covering the whole administrative limits have been touched upon by the several speakers that it is not possible to answer them in detail within the short time available to us. We are at this stage concerned with the general discussion of the budget, and I shall confine myself to general observations. The debate has disclosed a fuller appreciation of the difficulties of the Government on the part of the non-official Members and a readiness on their part to extend their co-operation to us. For both of these we are very thankful.

Separation of Panchayats from Agriculture is being harped upon. It is well known now that the Special Finance Committee has recommended it, and that the question is under the consideration of the Government. Orders will be passed on this when the report is disposed of.

Another allegation made in this connection is the insufficiency of allotments for Panchayats. A study of the budget estimates and accounts of the last three years and the remarks of the Special Finance Committee on the subject will show that there is no insufficiency but superfluity of funds. I would say that the Panchayats are not able to utilise the amounts allotted to them, and every year amounts are allowed by them to lapse. It was remarked by one Member that even these small amounts allowed to the Panchayats are not placed at their disposal. I do not understand what is really meant by this. If the Member means that the amounts are not handed over to the Panchayats in cash when the year begins, I can only say that the suggestion is unsafe and unacceptable. Money cannot be drawn from the Treasury in advance, but only after the work is done. To meet

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urgent necessities, advances or imprests are allowed, and I cannot think of any difficulty in carrying out works.

A remark was made here condemning the Government on a charge of hoarding of funds. This is not a charge that could reasonably be made. This accumulated surplus is not due to starvation of any of the administrative Departments in the discharge of their normal and legitimate functions. A perusal of the budget estimates year by year will show that we do not estimate with a view to lay by large surpluses. After meeting our ordinary requirements, we find very little to save. Fortunately, unanticipated receipts from 'Customs', 'Railway', 'Abkari,' etc., come in. These are not stable revenues but often fluctuating and of the nature of windfalls, and cannot be counted upon always. We cannot undertake recurring expenditure on the basis of these incomes. Every Indian State, I learn, lay by something every year, as a reserve fund. Such a fund is very essential to every Government and to every business. It cannot be avoided. As pointed out by the Special Finance Committee, big calls are likely to come upon Government in the near future, and not only these accumulated surpluses will then disappear, but we shall have to go in for loans too. However, Government are not unmindful of the needs of the country. One important necessity urged upon is the improvement of irrigation facilities. A definite step has been taken in this direction by the appointment of an investigation staff, which has already begun work. Reorganisation and improvement of pay and salaries of the services is another. Government have only been waiting for the report of the Special Finance Committee to carry this out, and an allotment sufficient to meet the immediate necessity in this direction has been provided in the budget.

A criticism was heard about appointments and favouritism. It is only possible for me to say that this is an unfounded allegation. It is only those who are charged with this responsibility that know what all considerations have to be weighed in this direction. Much anxious thought is bestowed by Government in coming to a decision, and if you begin to attribute motives to every action, it is ungenerous. It is reasonable to question the justification of a step taken or a decision arrived at or an act done, but, if motives are attributed, there will be no end to discussion, and it will be impossible to justify. Nomination to appointment, distribution of honours, etc., are matters easily susceptible of such wrong interpretations. The same applies to cases of extension of service. I may, however, assure this

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House that in every such case the interest of the public service alone have been the determining factor with the Government.

Representations as to recruitments from the Bar have been made occasionally. Government do make such recruitments. Such recruitments are not so few as was pointed out by one of the Members. Almost all the B. L.s. now in service were recruited from the Bar. If what the Member means is that every time a vacancy occurs recruitment should directly be made from the Bar to that particular vacancy, it may not be possible to accept the proposition as a general rule. If that is done, what is to become of those who are already recruited? As I submitted a little while ago, several considerations will come in, and a definite assurance of any kind is not practicable. I can only say that it has been the earnest attempt of Government to satisfy all legitimate aspirations.

Next, the mode of answering questions in the Council was remarked upon. I repudiate strongly any attempt to attribute wrong motives in this direction. A straight-forward answer is furnished to every question as far as could be done, and if this is defective or wanting in sufficient elucidation, the Members have the right of putting supplementary questions. The Proceedings of this Council would show what wide latitude is allowed to every questioner in the matter of supplementary questions. I have only to submit that it is the honest and sincere desire of every Member of Government in this House to furnish whatever information available with him for the use of the non-official Members, either inside or outside of the House; and I can add that the suggestions made in this House will be borne in mind for future guidance.

The judiciary of the State is charged with corruption. This is a serious charge. No case of corruption, i. e., bribery, has been brought to notice. We were not given any specific instances, but no one is expected to speak lightly of the matter, and as the statement has been made by a responsible Member of this House against a whole body of respectable and responsible judiciary, it will be more to the public good if he produces before Government specific instances of corruptions and evidence in support of them. Government have yet to learn the information which is available to the Hon'ble Members. To make a statement of corruption against a particular officer without adducing any proof, and ask him to vindicate his character, is as irresponsible a procedure as the statement itself. If such a course is adopted, the position of no officer is safe, and I suppose this House will not be a party to such a procedure. In one particular instance of corruption,—not bribery—however, to

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which the Member referred to, the matter is under consideration and orders are pending, and I must at this stage decline to be drawn into any discussion on the point. In another case, beyond the scope of questions for informations on unfounded allegations, there has been nothing whatever.

Railway 3rd class accommodation—Government have already brought to the notice of the Railway authority the inconvenience of 3rd class passengers in the State Railway, and the matter is engaging their attention. In regard to industries, the Member for Education will be dealing with the subject.

Mr. V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar.—I have not many observations to make. The Excise policy of the Government was stated even in the very first Budget Session of the First Council, and was reiterated in the succeeding Budget Sessions. That policy is not at all different from that followed in the territories surrounding the Cochin State, viz., the Madras and Travancore territories. On the other hand, both are the same. It is stated here a number of times that, surrounded as our State is by the British and Travancore territories, it cannot have and has not an Excise policy different from that followed by those territories. This view was also endorsed by the Special Finance Committee. All the expedients adopted in the Madras Presidency and Travancore for minimising drink and wean away people from drink have been and are being adopted in this State also. Some of the Hon'ble Members here advocate total prohibition. But the lesson of the little State of Bhopal must be an eye-opener against any such step being taken here, surrounded as our State is, like the Bhopal State, by other territories, where the policy is not one of total prohibition. In the very first Budget Session of the First Council, some of the Hon'ble Members brought to the notice of this House the example of Bhopal, which had then adopted a policy of total prohibition. But that State, after an experience of little more than 3 years, found to its bitter cost that the only effect of that policy was the loss of Government revenue to the extent of over 17 lakhs, as the people, who were, till the introduction of that policy, getting their drink from the State shops, continued to get their drinks even after that from the shops of the surrounding States. The result was that last year the Bhopal Government reversed their Excise policy of total prohibition and re-introduced liquor shops. This shows that the emancipation of the people from the drink habit must come as a result of reformation from within.

Some of the Hon'ble Members advocate reduction of shops as a means for reducing consumption. Reduction of shops is certainly one of the expedients adopted both here and the sur-

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rounding British and Travancore territories for reducing consumption. Even for the next year there has been a reduction in the number of shops in one State.

There are, however, several evils in the undue reduction of the number of shops, for experience in other places has shown that reduction in the number of shops has not resulted in the reduction in consumption of liquor. On the other hand, it is responsible for the advent of the system of hawking of liquor and the large increase of illicit practices. It even leads to increased consumption on account of introduction of liquor into houses, where, instead of a member or two drinking, all the members share the habit. It will also lead to over-crowding of shops. This is the opinion of the Madras Excise Committee, and the Madras Government says that further reduction in the number of shops has disadvantages, which have to be balanced against the advantages, and that in any case such a measure cannot be adopted.

The Hon'ble Member for the Jews said that the Government was encouraging drink. No charge is farther from the truth than this. This charge is not a new one, but had been levelled against the Indian Government even before 1912, whose policy we have adopted. But the charge was admitted to be unfounded by great and eminent temperance leaders like Rev. Herbert Anderson and Rai Bahadur Dr. Chunilal Bhose, and these gentlemen apologised for the charge.

The Hon'ble Member for Vadakkancheri urges that the system of licensing trees for sweet toddy should be done away with, and the reason given by him is that there is difficulty in getting licenses. If there had been any difficulty, it would certainly have been brought to my notice this year in this matter. On the other hand, I am satisfied, on personal enquiry, that there is absolutely no difficulty in obtaining a license. With regard to the old licensees there is no difficulty at all. They have simply to apply with their licenses and the application and T. T. form. Only they should do so sufficiently early. I have given strict instructions to my subordinates that all the trees, whether for fermented or for jaggery toddy, must be marked within 7 days from the receipt of the T. T. forms, and I am glad to inform the House that this instruction has been carried out in all cases, except when there was a rush of applications.

With regard to new applicants, no doubt a preliminary enquiry has to be conducted. It is now conducted by the Inspector and Inspector alone, and no avoidable delay is caused in submitting his report. I may observe that the number of trees that are tapped for sweet toddy here is increasing by thousands

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every year since the abolition of tree-tax. The same system is in vogue in the whole of Travancore except in a few of the Southern Districts. Hence the system is not new to our State.

The Hon'ble Member for Cheruvirutti says that there are two sources of additional income to the Department, which have not been availed of. The first, according to him, is from the manufacture of salt in our State. It is said that because salt is manufactured in Travancore it can be so done here also. But salt is manufactured in Travancore not in the Northern Taluks but in some of the Southern Taluks, where rain is scantier, and where there is intense sunshine. The conditions of our State are more or less similar to those of the Northern Taluks of Travancore. Here there is much heavier rainfall, and there will not be sufficient sunshine for the brine to evaporate. This is the reason why salt manufacture is not attempted here.

The other source pointed by him is that from the Distillery. He says that if, instead of giving the contract of manufacturing liquor to a third person, the Government itself manufactures liquor from its own funds, there will not be a middle-man's profit, and that profit will accrue to the Government. I think the Hon'ble Member is under a misconception on this point. No Government anywhere in India has undertaken this task for the obvious reason that it cannot take any profit out of it as it is the consumer who pays for the cost. The only income to the Government from this source is the duty on liquor.

Lastly, the Hon'ble Member for the Muhammadans says that a Committee should be appointed to investigate into the matter of the Excise policy. Such a suggestion was made at the very first Budget Session of the First Council. It was accepted by the Government, and a Committee was accordingly appointed. The Committee had finished their labours, and submitted their report. The report is under the consideration of the Government.

The House rose for the day at 4 minutes to 5 P. M.

T. K. KRISHNA MENON,
Secretary to the Council.

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